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ENGRAVED FOR THE BEE.



ABBE BLANCHET.

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THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

CONSISTING OF

ORIGINAL PIECES AND SELECTIONS FROM PERFORMANCES
OF MERIT, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

A WORK CALCULATED TO DISSEMINATE USEFUL KNOWLEDGE
AMONG ALL RANKS OF PEOPLE AT A SMALL EXPENCE,

BY

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VOLUME EIGHTH.

APIS MATINÆ MORE MODOQUE.

HORACE.



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THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7. 1792.

MEMOIRS OF ABBE BLANCHET*,

FROM THE FRENCH OF M. DUSAUX, OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF
INSCRIPTIONS AND BELLES LETTRES, SELECTED AND TRANSLATED
BY THE OBLIGING FAVOUR OF A FRIEND.

With a portrait.

But how sadly will the scene be reversed, if the first thoughts which occur to a man, concerning himself, be of the gloomy and threatening kind; if his temper, instead of calmness and self enjoyment, shall yield him nothing but disquiet and painful agitation? BLAIR'S SERMONS.

THE Abbé Blanchet was born the 26th January 1707, at the town of Anguville in the district of Chartres, from parents little blessed by fortune; but independent and honest. He may be said to have erected himself. He came to the college of Lewis XIV. at Paris to finish his studies. The Jesuits were not

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* Author of several elegant miscellaneous tales, two of which our readers have lately seen, the dean of *Badajoz*, and the *Will*. All of the author's works display a similar elegant turn of humour, and have a fine moral tendency.

long in discovering the sweet disposition and talents of this young man, who very soon became the confidant of his companions, and the friend of his masters. These last so overloaded him with kindness and distinction, that through gratitude he mistook his vocation; and in 1724 he began his noviceship, but did not remain there long. Already governed by a secret ascendant, by a restlessness, the principle of which he was ignorant of, but which was nothing else but that natural desire of man for liberty and independance, he quitted his masters, or rather his benefactors, but with so much feeling, that they regretted his loss, and they never lost sight of him. He requested their friendship, but did not speak of protection. Being his own master, but without support, without fortune, he never doubted, but that among his school fellows, providence had reserved him a friend to console and assist him. One sees every day so many reputations falsely usurped, that it appears but just to speak of that merit which was desirous of concealment. But is it proper to occupy the public attention with one who had condemned himself to obscurity, and which will not fail to be made a reproach to his historian? It shall be shown whether the Abbé Blanchet had sufficient virtue, talents, or originality, to deserve that after his death his portrait should be drawn; and it is to be hoped that this picture will be a stronger resemblance because he himself will furnish the principal features and the colouring.

To judge of the gloomy affections which, from the age of twenty, poisoned his life, it is necessary to hear him when he converses with the keeper of all

his sentiments ; " I am impatient to ease my secret pains in pouring them into your heart : My health gets worse and worse, and I am so horribly low that life is become bitter to me ; *such as I am, it is necessary to support it ; but are others obliged to do it ?* I lose myself ; I am always in my perplexities ; I do not know how I shall get out of them ; if religion did not comfort me, I believe I should go mad." When one recollects that it is the author of so many charming verses and tales who thus expresses himself, that it is a man who was so much sought after, particularly for the sweetness of his temper, and the good humour of his wit, one must admit that the human heart will contain many contrarities.

In order to avoid being carried away by different passions, he proposed to himself a plan, conformable to his principles, from which nothing could turn him. He gave himself up intirely to the educating young persons, and resolved, in spite of his aversion to any kind of constraint, to do for others what had been done so generously for himself. He had not the trouble of hunting after pupils, they were before hand with him. His old masters watched over him without his knowledge ; the fathers Brumoy, Bougeant, Castel, and the ingenious Grefset, whom he had loved more than the rest, had procured him a sort of reputation. Besides M. Bouvart, who was already celebrated, (for the first steps of this great physician were those of a giant,) and M. de Gennes who was a man of letters, as well as a famous advocate, both countrymen and friends of the Abbé Blan-

chet, had made him known and desired by all the best in France. Persons of very high rank wished to trust all the hopes of their honour to his care ; but he preferred, at first, a public institution. He was a distinguished professor of the humanities and rhetoric, in two provincial colleges. A real apostle, M. de Merinville, bishop of Chartres, who was an eye witness of his zeal and of his success, but who saw his health suffering from it, offered him a canonry, on condition he would take priests orders : “ *My lord,*” replied he, “ *I am too honest a man to undertake it.*” He then gave his reasons, and this virtuous prelate could not fail approving them ; the fact is, he did not think himself worthy of so important an office, and he was in this like his illustrious countryman Nicole.

His health, which was daily on the decline, forced him to take private pupils, frequently more beneficial than the other mode ; but this he did not calculate upon, he only thought of doing good, which he did.

As I only write the life of the Abbé Blanchet as short as I can, I speak but little of his pupils. It must be known, however, that all of them have done him great honour by their irreproachable manners. He appeared more contented with himself ; but his most intimate friend, and to whom I owe all my materials, and all the vouchers of this writing, was not satisfied with him. M. de Chavannes (at present dean of the parliament of Paris), for it is of him I speak, one of the worthiest and most upright magistrates of our age, gave him an *indultum* *, which he neglected to

* See the French Encyclopedia—article *indulte*.

present and kept it five years. He gave him another which was worth to him a canonry in the cathedral church of Boulogne, near the sea. He set out, and writes thus in his first letter: "Here I am arrived at Boulogne, the question now is whether I shall remain here? That no mortal can determine; for even I myself, who ought to know more on that subject than any one else, cannot!" It is from this period that the scruples, the indecision, and the singularities of the Abbé Blanchet, went on increasing; but as he was in some sort a double man, that is to say two different characters were visible in him, we shall soon consider him in another point of view. His chapter pressed him to complete his orders; he replied as he had before done, and gave his resignation into the hands of M. de Mirepoix, who allowed him eight days to consider of it. He persisted in it. The difficulty was how to inform his friend of it; but M. de Chavannes, who respected and admired the virtue which kept him poor, accepted his reasons, as he had before done, without being disgusted. What would become of human kind if strong minds did not every now and then take pity of the weak?

Being freed from his canonry, he again took to what he used to call in joke *his Collar of misery*, and at which he was the first to laugh. "Since one must row, said he, I row with a tolerable good grace, and cheerfully enough." He always looked on the title of *preceptor* as honourable; and delighted so much in that profession formerly so highly esteemed †

† See Plutarch's life of Theseus and the 7th Satire of Juvenal.

that it seemed fitted for him ; it is for this reason he quitted it with regret, and preserved such a memory of it, that he looked upon himself as belonging to the family, where he had educated any young person.

The singularity of this voluntary resignation, added to the more singular contrasts which he constantly exhibited, naturally, and without any affectation, excited a curiosity in many, who, if he had lived like other people, would not have minded him. Great men wished to be acquainted with one, who keeping pain and chagrins for himself, carried good humour and mirth wherever he went ; a man above all, who did not know how to ask or accept ; who, from his heart despised riches, but without cynicism, and without boastings ; but who did not bid others do so, as may be seen from the pains he took to provide honourably for his nephew, (M. l' Abbé Fournier canon of the cathedral of Chartres,) very worthy, without doubt, of all his affection and esteem. The great knew him and loved him ; they esteemed him so much as to occupy themselves about his fortune in spite of himself.

Let us observe here, that his character, for talents are out of the question, offers very similiar traits to that of the famous J. J. Rousseau, but there are great dissimilarities. Jean Jacques was continually a prey to the love of fame ; he distrusted all the world, and was always unsocial ; on the other hand the Abbé Blanchet kept as much as he could his life and writings unknown, lived in perfect confidence, and died in the arms of friendship.

In general, human life is spent almost entirely in wishing for, and in pursuit of honours and riches ; the life of the Abbé Blanchet is more remarkable by the obstacles which he never ceased to throw in the way of his fortune, which came to seek him without his thinking of it. They made him interpreter of the English, Italian and Spanish tongues, at the king's library. After he had considered of it, he went to M. Bignon ;—" I understand what you come for," said the librarian, " but will not accept the resignation of your place of interpreter, as M. de Mi-repoix did that of your canonry ; moreover, added he, it is a recompence given you, and not an employment." Thus the Abbé was condemned to receive a hundred pistoles, which were continued to his last moments. They had made him an interpreter, on condition he interpreted nothing ; they made him censor, on the like terms, and merely to give him a pension ; but this time he would have his way, and accepted the title but refused the salary. He never loved presents, of whatever sort they might be ; and he had made a kind of agreement, with his generous friends, by which they were forced to serve him according to his own fancy rather than as they wished.

These victories gained over the perpetual scruples of the Abbé, made his friends more eager. They got him nominated librarian of the king's cabinet, an honourable and lucrative place ; but as soon as they informed him of it, they did not allow him time to deliberate. You must set out directly and without delay. More confounded than surprised, at this new piece of good fortune, he writes to his friend, " I

set out to-morrow for Versailles, and I think my books will follow me the day after. Alas ! I am much afraid that my dear books and I may not return very soon." He arranged, with a great deal of intelligence, the library which had been intrusted to his care ; he conducted himself, also much to the liking of the prince and courtiers, who sought for his conversation, though he did not flatter them. In his commerce with them he had the talent to speak truth without rudeness, and was polite without familiarity. He was a scrupulous observer of good breeding, and perfectly acquainted with its different shades. It was in vain they called him familiarly my dear ; his reply was always Sir ; and it was by these means he avoided any humiliations, which are generally the consequences of unequal connections.

During this time he was dying of chagrin, and *ennui*, as he declares himself to his friend : " Ah ! my friend, I hope you are more happy where you are than I am here ! I will quit it, if it please God, about the end of winter. I shall find myself in all probability as I was before, in moderate poverty, which does not alarm me when to it is joined liberty, health of body, and peace of mind." He gave up his place, as he said he would, and returned to Paris, but his stay at Versailles had cured him of all illusion, by bringing immediately under his own eyes, what can only be esteemed when seen at a distance.

As the passions are every where the same, Paris, after this new and last experiment, appeared to him like a desert. Thinking himself incapable henceforward of living with mankind, whom he could not

esteem, as much as he wished, and dreading the continual slight of friends, whose warmest expectations he had disappointed, he took the resolution of hiding, at St Germain *en laye*, the remainder of a life, which he thought nearer its period than it was, for he languished there in melancholy near seventeen years.

He no sooner took refuge in this last asylum, than he found the truth, that in changing places, we do not change characters. As soon as he had experienced his new situation, he thus expressed himself: "As for me, who, as you know, has scarce ever tasted happiness, I shall have less of it for the time to come. I am worn down by a cruel melancholy, which I can no longer conquer; and against which there are not any resources here. In these last six weeks I am like a bear in my hole, without having the courage to receive any visitor; if it please God this will soon finish, for according to all circumstances I shall die of pure melancholy; in the mean time preserve for me all those sentiments with which you honour me; it seems to me, that as long as I enjoy the friendship of such a person as you I shall not go mad, which I am sometimes apprehensive of."

To be concluded in our next.

ON ANIMAL INSTINCT.

Continued from p. 86 vol. vii.

OF all the instincts that influence the animal creation, that which induces the dog to attach himself to man, seems to be the most unaccountable. Other

animals may be tamed ; many may be domesticated, so as to depend upon man for their subsistence ; almost all animals may be brought by means of hunger, to look up to man for their food, and to yield to him a certain kind of obedience, from this overpowering compulsitor ; but the dog is the only animal that delights in the society of man above that of its own species ; the only animal that attaches itself to him through choice, who takes pleasure in his smiles, who seems even to participate in his grief, and who, with unexampled fidelity, becomes his companion in adversity, and prosperity, nor ever deserts him on any occasion. No wonder if an attachment so strong, so uniform, and so lively, should beget a sort of reciprocal regard ; and that man, on so many occasions, should discover such a marked fondness for this faithful domestic ! Who can blame the poor old man, who, when receiving a pittance of alms for himself, petitioned for a small matter more for his dog ; and though it was natural enough for the person who was bestowing the bounty, to desire the man to put away his dog, yet when the powerful appeal was made to his feelings, "*I shall then have no creature on earth that regards me,*" we applaud the beneficence which induced him to continue the pension to the faithful dog, as long as his unfortunate owner lived.

This attachment of the dog to man, were it only observed to take place where he had no access to others of its own kind, might be resolved into the gregarious principle, which in some classes of animals is very strong. Among horses, cattle, and most of

the domesticated animals, this instinct is very powerful; and though, in many cases, habit may reconcile these animals to solitude, yet it often happens that a cow, which has not been early accustomed to be alone, can never be reconciled to it without discovering evident marks of uneasiness, that prevents her from feeding. Animals of this temperament, when deprived of those of their own species, gradually contract a fondness for those of any other kind that is often with them; a cow in my neighbourhood, when forced to go alone for a day, continues lowing without intermission, and when the milk-maid approaches, the cow runs up to her, not only for the relief she finds in being milked, but for the pleasure, as would seem, of society. Often have I seen a conversation between the two continued for half an hour together, the milk-maid soothing her for her solitary state, and the cow returning her melancholy complainings at every pause. When a solitary horse, a sheep, a goat, or a deer happen to be confined in the same pasture with a cow, they mutually contract a reciprocal fondness for each other, and discover a great degree of uneasiness when they are separated; but I have met with no instance of the strong power of this propensity more striking than the following: A physician in the country chanced to have a single horse, with no other domestic animal, that lived without doors, except one chicken. These two solitary animals, thus deprived of society among their own species, soon contracted a fondness for the company of each other, and were never asunder unless from unavoidable necessity. When the horse

was carried from home, the poor chicken wandered about in search of him incessantly, in melancholy mood, and when he returned, they flew together with the most evident tokens of mutual satisfaction. The hen picked up her food, by the horse's side, and the horse lifted up his feet, and moved himself with the most cautious attention, least he should accidentally hurt his diminutive companion. This affords a proof of the strong power of the gregarious principle. But nothing of that kind can be alleged of the dog. He voluntarily deserts his own species for man; and only associates for a short time with the female, who receives but a few casual visits, while his general happiness seems to be centered in the company of the person to whom he has attached himself.

All animals seem to have an instinctive knowledge of the best manner of employing the powers that nature has bestowed upon them for self-defence. The calf, before its horns have begun to bud, opposes its head to any annoying object, as if conscious of the arms that nature had intended for it; but never does the foal think of making a similar defence; his little hoof makes unavailing strokes, a sure presage of the force his heel will acquire at a future period.

In a wild state animals discover their natural instincts much more perfectly than when they are tamed, so that such animals as we have domesticated lose, in a great measure, all their natural faculties. Being accustomed to be fed by man, they lose the faculty of discriminating food, and of searching for it themselves which they strongly possess in their na-

tural state. They become a pampered dependant, which must immediately perish, if the fostering care of man be withdrawn for ever so short a time, though in a situation where they could have naturally subsisted with ease. Being also accustomed to be chastened by him, they gradually lose a sense of their own powers, and yield, without a contest, to many objects which they were naturally capable of overcoming. The mighty elephant submits to be chastised by his driver. A child makes the sturdy ox obey his voice. The barking of a trifling dog will make a whole flock of cattle or sheep run with terror. In their natural state this harmless animal is endowed with a steadiness and firmness, and instinctive sense of congregated strength, that serves as a sure defence against even powerful assailants. When threatened with danger, the whole flock run instinctively together; but no sooner is a moment given for pausing, than they marshal themselves in good order, and without being overpowered with silly fear, present a bold front to the enemy. In this situation, the hungry fox himself dares not attack them. They wait upon the defensive, the strong rams in front, their heads joined close to one another, firm as the Macedonian phalanx. Should the fox venture near, while they are thus prepared, he would be sure to be knocked down, before he could seize on any one; and those around, by repeated strokes, would never allow him to rise. He knows his danger and avoids it. Never does he attack a flock of mountain sheep, in this situation. He steals away, lurks in some concealed corner, till the flock disperses itself to

feed, and then seizes upon some defenceless individual, before it be aware, and carries it off in safety.

The gregarious instinct operates so strongly on all animals of this class, as to induce any creature of that kind easily to associate with others of a different class, if it be accustomed to do it from its youth. As the most ferocious animals, in being tamed, lose a sense of their own natural powers, and become gentle and timid, so the most timid animals, when tamed, lose all sense of fear, and often become pert and mischievous. A hare can be made thus to associate with a dog, a mouse with a cat, or any other animals of the same kind, without shewing the least sense of danger. And if it be naturally endowed with any offensive powers, it exercises those indifferently on its native enemies as on others. No animal is more afraid of another than a sheep is of a dog, yet the following case, which I am assured from good authority happened actually not long ago in this neighbourhood, serves to show that the case may be easily reversed.

A nobleman in Scotland who kept a pack of hounds, happened to have about the house a tame ram lamb. When young, it was so pleasing and innocent, that it was a favourite of every person. It used to range at large, to go into the stables, and among the hounds, all of which were taught to respect it. They thus became familiar with each other; *Willie*, so the pet sheep was called, grew at length strong, and somewhat unmanageable; it, therefore, became necessary to put him up into some place of confinement, when the servants were not at hand to protect

strangers; and the dog kennel was the readiest place they could find. There, of course, he used to be shut up at night. In this situation he was quite at his ease; and when ever any of the dogs offended him, he naturally made a run at them, and gave them such a blow as to hurt them very much. Feeling thus his own power, Mr Willie assumed authority; and as he liked not to be disturbed, when the dogs became a-snarling at each other, and making a noise, he used to rise up, and make a race at them, striking the first that came in his way with great force. This kind of discipline soon produced its natural effects. The offending dogs became afraid as soon as this champion prepared himself for battle, so that, in a short time, he no sooner rose up, than quiet was restored to the kennel; every dog shrinking peaceably into his own place, without waiting for the blow.

Animals that have no natural weapons for self-defence, are generally endowed with other faculties that they exert for that purpose. The cuttle-fish, as has been often remarked, when hard pursued, emits an inky juice from itself, that renders the water so muddy as to enable it often thus to escape. The *skunk*, an animal of the weasel class, in America, emits a substance of such intolerable fetor, as to overpower almost every animal that comes near it. The tortoise retires within its shell; and the hedge-hog rolls itself up into a prickly ball, which the dog in vain attempts to tear in pieces.

Some animals also are endowed with a natural instinct for preserving their young, that has so much

the appearance of reasoning, that it is no wonder if we should sometimes confound the one with the other. Not to mention the various and beautiful contrivances for securing nests from the attacks of enemies, which are better exemplified in warmer climates than here, it is well known that when a pointer steals upon a covey of young partridges, the mother rises a little, and tumbles as if wounded, so as scarcely to get out of the way of the dog, in order to induce him to pursue, in hopes of catching the mother, who continues thus fluttering and tumbling, gradually alluring him to pursue her, till he has lost sight of the young. No sort of reasoning could produce a conduct better calculated to answer the end in view. It is, indeed, too well calculated for that purpose for me to rank it under the chapter of *reason*; instinct, in general, being much more certain of effecting the ends for which nature intended it than reason.

On this principle, I should be inclined to range this act under the head of *instinct*; and I once had an opportunity of being convinced, that I here reason justly from the following fact. I was travelling on a road, bounded by a ditch and a hedge on each side, which ran in a straight direction for a great way; it was pretty early in the morning, and a wild duck had led her young into one of the ditches where there was a little water. When I approached, the mother flew off slowly, hardly rising from the ground and letting her feet hang down as if wounded; frequently alighting and tumbling, as if unable to proceed. I rode on, following her, and

marking her procedure. She kept a little before me in the same manner, and practising the same tricks for at least a mile. It was remarkable, likewise, that before she had proceeded a couple of hundred yards, some people coming in the opposite direction, forced her to leave the road, and fly over one of the hedges till they were past; so that, if reason had had any share in this manœuvre, she must have seen that her young would be in much greater danger from those who were going towards them, than from me who had already passed them, and she ought to have turned back, under the covert of the hedge, and drawn the young off the road before these fresh enemies came up. Instead of that, however, she pursued her instinctive course blindly, returning to the road as soon as they were past and, following the same plan as before, proceeded for near a mile before me, fluttering and dragging her legs as at first. This conduct, therefore, though at first it appeared the most *wise* that could have been contrived, appeared at length to be the most *foolish* that could have been conceived. Hence I attribute the one, as well as the other, not to reason, but to blind instinct alone.

Docility is a principle that seems to be much more nearly connected with reason than with instinct. We must, however, here distinguish between *docility* and *tractableness*; an animal may be so tamed as to be perfectly gentle and inoffensive; yet it may be stupid, and incapable of being taught any thing farther than to submit to its master's power, or to be allured by his bounty. The chicken soon knows to obey the call for food; but scarcely can it be made to di-

stinguish any other language. The cat is, in many cases, as tame as the dog ; but it never can be taught to understand the language of its master's eye, like this engaging domestic. " The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib ;" they can be rendered tame and gentle ; but how few are the lessons they can be taught when compared with the elephant ? The tractability of animals is not indeed at all connected with their docility. The monkey, even in its wild state, mimics every thing it sees done by man ; but many animals are more tractable than it is.

Quadrupeds, in general, possess this talent of *docility* in a much higher degree than any other animals ; and though many of the feathered tribe can be easily tamed, and rendered very gentle and familiar with man, yet, unless it be in respect to singing alone, which they acquire merely by a long continued repetition of the same sounds, they are not in general susceptible of any culture. Even the carrying pigeon, which has been employed for conveying letters from a distance, does it merely by an instinctive propensity to return to its former place of abode. The following instance, however, as it is a singular exception to a general rule, deserves to be very generally known. I met with it in a book that is in the hands of few persons, *Asiatic researches*, vol. ii.

Account of the Baya, or East Indian GROSS BEAK.

" The little bird called *baya*, in Hindi," writes ATHUS ALI KHAN, of *Dehli*, who communicates this article, " may be taught with ease to fetch a piece of paper, or any small thing that his master points out

to him. It is an attested fact, that if a ring be dropped into a deep well, and a signal given to him, he will fly down with amazing celerity, catch the ring before it touches the water, and bring it up to his master with apparent exultation; and it is confidently asserted, that if a house, or any other place, be shown to him once or twice, he will carry a note thither immediately on a proper signal being made. One instance of his docility I can myself mention with confidence, having often been an eye witness of it. The young Hindoo women at Benares, and in other places, wear very thin plates of gold, called *tica's*, slightly fixed, by way of ornament, between their eye-brows, and when they pass through the streets, it is not uncommon for the youthful libertines, who amuse themselves with training bayas, to give them a signal which they understand, and send them to pluck the pieces of gold from the foreheads of their mistresses, which they bring in triumph to the lovers. This is a truly singular instance of docility in a bird, the like of which has never before fallen under the notice of A YOUNG OBSERVER*.

* Thinking the reader may be curious to know more of this singular bird, I supply the rest of the description omitted by this correspondent.

“ This bird, which is called *berbera* in Sanscrit, *bábúi* in the dialect of Bengal, *cibú* in Persian, and *tenaxowit* in Arabic, from his remarkable pendant nest, is rather larger than a sparrow, with yellow brown plumage, a yellowish head and feet, a light coloured breast, and a conic beak, very thick in proportion to his body, is exceedingly common in Hindostan. He is astonishingly sensible, faithful, and docile, never voluntarily deserting the place where his young were hatched; but not averse, like most other birds, to the society of mankind; and easily taught to perch on the hand of his master. In a state of nature he generally builds his nest on the highest tree he can find, especially on the palmyra, or on the Indian

OBSERVATIONS ON DIFFERENT KINDS OF SHEEP.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

OF all domestic animals, the sheep is surely the most worthy of our notice, in that it supplies us with both food and raiment. That there is more of both produced by some kinds of them, with the same keeping, than others, and that too of a superior quality, few people at this day will dispute; by consequence, it is the business of every breeder of sheep to inquire where that kind is to be found in the greatest perfection.

Mr Bakewell's breed has for many years been thought to stand foremost of the long-woolled kind;

fig tree, and he prefers that which happens to overhang a well or rivulet. He makes it of grafs, which he weaves like cloth, and shapes like a bottle, suspending it firmly to the branches, but so as to rock with the wind; and placing it with its entrance downwards, to secure it from birds of prey. His nest usually consists of two or three chambers; and it is the popular belief, that he lights them with fire-flies, which he catches alive at night, and confines with moist clay, or with cow dung. That such flies are often found in his nest, where pieces of cow dung are also stuck, is undubitable; but as their light could be of little use to him, it seems probable that he only feeds on them.

“The *baya* feeds naturally on grafshoppers and other insects, but will subsist, when tame, on pulse macerated with water: His flesh is warm and drying, of easy digestion, and recommended in medical books as a solvent of the stone in the bladder or kidneys; but of that virtue there is no sufficient proof. The female lays many beautiful eggs resembling large pearls; the white of them, when they are boiled, is transparent, and the flavour of them is exquisitely delicate. When many *bayas* are assembled on a high tree, they make a lively din, but it is rather chirping than singing: Their want of musical talents is, however, amply supplied by their wonderful sagacity, in which they are not excelled by any feathered inhabitant of the forest.”

and it is well known the great pains Sir John Sinclair has taken, (and I hope will take,) to find out, by proper crossing, the best and most profitable kinds of short-woolled sheep. That his endeavours may succeed, is the sincere wish of every liberal minded man.

I took notice, a few weeks ago, of an account in the Newcastle and Kelso newspapers, of a large sheep, two years old, being killed at Haddington in November last, bred and fed by Mr Sherif of Captainhead in East Lothian, whose four quarters weighed an hundred and ninety-three pounds, and tallow thirty-two pounds ten ounces; that clipped in May last, had twelve pounds of wool, which was sold at one shilling and threepence *per* pound, and had upon him, when killed, ten pounds, being only five months growth, which was likewise valued at one shilling and threepence *per* pound; the account farther says, Mr Sherif has, for some years, been at much pains and expence, to improve his breed of sheep, and he is now supposed, by several judges, to have, for both wool and carcase, the completest breed of sheep in the south of Scotland.

As to wool, I believe few people will doubt of his having, not only the completest breed in the south of Scotland, but in the island of Great Britain in point of value *per* fleece: As to carcase, I shall reserve giving my opinion till I have an answer to the following questions from Mr Sherif, or whoever published the above account.

1. What was the sheep fed with from the time of his being weaned from the ewe, but more particularly

for the last twelve months? 2. Was his wool of the combing or carding sort, and where did Mr Sherif find a market for it at one shilling and threepence *per* pound? 3. How does Mr Sherif, or any person else, account for his having ten pounds of wool, the growth of five months, and only twelve pounds the growth of twelve months?

I hope these questions will not be thought improper to elucidate the matter, and shall now give my reasons for proposing them.

To prove the goodness of the breed of sheep, with regard to carcase, I think they ought to be produced without any other feeding than roots, green herbage, and hay; their being indulged with more expensive food, can only be with an intent to deceive, or otherwise they must tacitly acknowledge them to be of so bad a kind as not to be capable of being made fat without such indulgence; therefore, when a sheep is killed to prove the goodness of the kind, his food for the last twelve months ought to be particularly noticed; or when a person goes to buy or take a tup, the first question he ought to ask is, what has he been fed with for these twelve months past? And should the tup seller or letter, be found out afterwards to have given him a false account, he is certainly not only liable to lose his tup's price, or hire, but is also liable to a prosecution for deceiving the buyer or taker.

My intent by the second question, is to have the superior quality of the wool better explained. The highest price for wool, last season, in Northumberland, being only eightpence halfpenny *per* pound, for combing, and tenpence for clothing wool. As to the

last question, it is merely to have the utility of clipping twice a-year more fully explained.

Indeed I make no doubt but it will be greatly to Mr Sherif's advantage to have the whole of this matter more fully explained. For my part, I shall candidly confess, that although I have been at a very considerable expence in hiring tups, both from Leicestershire and other counties, I suppose myself far short of Mr Sherif's perfection, particularly in wool, and shall this year, instead of going to Leicestershire as I intended, do myself the pleasure of paying Mr Sherif a visit at Captainhead, should his answers to the above prove satisfactory, as I make no doubt they will.

Ancreft, near Berwick upon Tweed,
Feb. 1792.

Yours,

JOHN NISBET.

REFLECTIONS OF FREDERICK THE GREAT.

Continued from p. 328, vol. ii.

“ You will laugh at the trouble I have taken to infuse into a people, whose knowledge hitherto has chiefly consisted in eating, drinking, making love, and fighting, ideas of good taste and Attic salt. Still I have a wish to be useful; and a grain thrown into fertile land often sprouts, and becomes unexpectedly fruitful.”

Letter CCI.

“ I was as much afflicted as I was enraged, at the incredible phrenzy and folly of Monsieur de Marivaux, the author of the *Système de la Nature*; who, far from depicting priests, as they really are, the sole, or at least the most formidable enemies of princes, has represented them on the contrary as the support and allies of royalty.”

From d' Alembert to the king, Letter CCXXXIV.

“ A state should never use a buttress, which good sense may think proper one day to pull down. See Hoadly, whose little finger, in argument, is heavier than the loins of the bishop of Gloucester.

“ I have an affection for the age in which I was born, and I abhor whatever threatens once more to hurry its successors into barbarism.

“ When ambitious priests persecute philosophers, and decry truths that have been demonstrated by the apostles of reason, they do not meet my approbation. Yet I perceive they act according to the principles of interest, by which they are incited to lord it over mankind. But when pretended philosophers, themselves, attempt to sap the foundation of acknowledged truths, when they degrade philosophy as much as they are able, it is impossible to express my indignation.”

Letter CXXIII.

“ What will become of philosophy if we leave the sage path which has been traced out for her in the highway of experiment? She would fall, as she did once in Greece, into the hands of sophists, and to the most evident truths, an obscure jargon would be substituted.”

Frederick's sentiments on the commerce of flattery.

“ Not being formed to rank with demi-gods, I imagine, when I hear a panegyric, that one insect is pronouncing an encomium into the ear of another insect. It is our duty to be just and beneficent, that we may deserve approbation; but to praise in hyperbole wretched earth-worms, that exist but for a moment, is the extremity of folly.”

Letter XXVI.

POETRY.

For the Bee.

THE LOVE-SICK MAID, BY THE REV'D. I. T.

Air Gramachree.

I.

I'LL placè me in the coolest bow'r,
Low in the winding vale,
And there I'll spend my ev'ning hour,
And pensive tell my tale;
The sober time and sadd'ning 'plaint,
With my heart well agree;
For I love grief without restraint;
How sweet is grief to me!

II.

For Strephon, Ah! the artless youth,
In simplest mode array'd,
A stranger more to love than truth,
As honest mirth betray'd,
Told me such tales of innocence,
Which oft-times I'd approve,
And every time he'd re-commence,
I wish'd he'd talk of love!

III.

I sought the image in his eye,
Of Strephon's heart the care,
And as he smil'd, then I wou'd sigh,
'Cause nought of love was there;
Then, of his pow'r unconscious, he
'Wou'd blush,—and if he sigh'd,
'Twas but a thoughtless sympathy,
When I a smile deny'd.

IV.

Ah! hapless maid,—O happy youth,
Who my first love hast won,
Which ever sacred is to truth,
By which my heart's undone;
PROFITIOUS FATE!—true virtue's friend,
To truth O ever near,
Regard me, hapless maid! and lend
To my distress an ear.

V.

Chill blast go blow in yonder vale,
The lily drooping dies,
And furnishes a piteous tale,
When 'Strephon homeward hies;
The balmy breeze breathe round our cotes,
And quick'ning influence bring,
And thus my swain may learn the lots,
From diff'rent fates which spring

VI.

The lily fair he'll straight lament,
 And sigh to see its doom,
 And in the moral he'll comment
 On Ella's *once fair* bloom :
 But when contrasted with the rose,
 That's shelter'd by the wall,
 Reflection soon will discompose,
 The pearly tear will fall.

VII.

Thus does the lamb with anxious eye,
 That strays with quer'lous bleat,
 The wounded deer with lengthen'd sigh,
 That seeks the lone retreat ;
 In hearts a tend'rer passion move,
 For poor misfortune's cause,
 Here only "*pity melts the love,*"
 Which love but pity knows !

Thornbill,

Jan. 5. 1792.

TO THE CROCUS.

Upright as are the thoughts of her I prize,
 Second of flowers ! tho' little canst thou boast
 May charm the sight or gratify the smell,
 I love thee ! for of all this goodly scene
 Which we behold, nought earlier than thyself
 My soul remembers : In my boyish years
 I've mark'd thy coming with incessant watch ;
 Oft have I visited each morn the spot
 Wherein thou ly'st intomb'd ; oft joy'd to see
 Thy pointed tops just peering o'er the ground :
 And ah ! fond fool ! how often hast thou bar'd
 Their tender sides, till thy too greedy love,
 Has kill'd the flow'rs its strange impatience
 Meant to hasten into bloom. So do not ye
 Whom heaven hath blest with children,
 Lest ye expose your darling hopes too soon
 To the world's fancy, there to face those winds,
 Whose bitter biting chills the weakly plant ;
 But shield them with your kind and fostering aid,
 Till they have gather'd strength t' abide those frosts
 That nip life's opening bud ; else ye, perhaps,
 May find your hopes all blasted ev'n as mine.

Ye much lov'd crocuses ! while mem'ry lasts,
 I'll hold you dear, for still shall you recall
 My infant days ; and, oh, how great's the bliss
 To think on those !—Oft does my soul inhale

The sweet rememb'rance, till the strong perfume
 Tortures the sense : For say whate'er you will,
 And call to memory departed joys,
 'Tis but a painful pleasure ! In themselves
 Our purest joys are intermix'd with cares ;
 But in the recollection of those joys,
 The sordid dregs of intermingling care,
 Sink to the ground, while all the bliss sublim'd,
 Is essence pure, too pungent to be born.

SONGS IN THE MAGICIAN NO CONJUROR.

AIR.—THERESA, BY MRS BILLINGTON.

WHY dares the eagle bend his flight,
 To meet the sun's meridian light,
 With such exulting glee ?
 'Tis not, as poets have averr'd,
 Because he is the regal bird ;
 It is because he's free.

The roving zephyr, as it goes,
 Drinks the rich fragrance of the rose,
 Or wantons o'er the stream ;
 And from the calm, sequester'd spray,
 The linnet-breathes her am'rous lay,
 To eve's departing beam.

But I, alas ! am doom'd to bear
 The fetters of relentless care,
 From ev'ry joy confin'd ;
 Oh ! no, to soothe my cruel pains,
 One cordial solace yet remains,
 The freedom of the mind !

AIR.—THERESA, BY MRS BILLINGTON.

MEEK, mournful nightingale ! whose ev'ning strain
 Is heard with many an undulating swell,
 Why dost thou love so sad a tale to tell,
 And soothe with such seducing woe the plain ?
 For thou canst prune thy wing at break of day,
 And fly to summer groves, and flow'ry meads away.

AIR.—SOMERVILLE, BY MR INCLEDOX.

WHEN true affection fills the heart,
 The lover acts the hero's part,
 Nor yields himself to sighs !
 Determin'd, still pursues the fair,
 In spite of danger and despair,
 He gains her—or he dies !

ZIMEO, A TALE.

SOME years ago, Paul Wilmot, a quaker, and a native of Philadelphia, having settled in Jamaica, retired to a plantation, beautifully situated on the declivity of a mountain, near the centre of the island. His family consisted of a wife and three young children. He possessed a number of slaves, whose looks and whole appearance betokened that their servitude was not grievous. Indeed Wilmot was one of those benevolent characters that consider the wide world as their country, and the whole human race as their brethren. His negroes were distributed into little families. Among them were no dissensions, no jealousies, no thefts, no suicides, no conspiracies: The labours of the day gave place in the evening to the song and the dance; and they retired to rest, with hearts full of gratitude, satisfaction, and content.

About this time, a negro of Benin, known by the name of John, had instigated the slaves of two rich plantations to revolt, to massacre their masters, and to fly to the mountain. This mountain is in the middle of the island; it is almost inaccessible, and is surrounded with fruitful vallies, which are inhabited by negroes, called the wild negroes. These, having formerly deserted their services, settled in those vallies, from whence they often made cruel sallies upon their former masters; but now they seldom rise, except to revenge their brethren, who fly to them for refuge from insupportable persecutions. John had been chosen chief of those negroes, and had issued from the vallies with a considerable body of followers. The alarm was soon spread in the colony; troops were marched to the mountain, and soldiers distributed in those plantations that were defensible.

Wilmot assembled his slaves. "My friends," said he, "there are arms; if I have been a hard master to you, use them against me; but if I have behaved to you as an affectionate father, take them and assist me in defending my wife and my children." The negroes seized upon the arms, and swore they would die in his defence, and in the defence of those that were dear to him.

Amongst his slaves there was one named Francisco, whom a friend of Wilmot's called Filmer, had found abandoned on the shore of a Spanish colony; he had been barbarously maimed, and one of his legs was newly cut off; a young negro woman was employed in stopping the blood, and in weeping the inefficacy of her cares. She had beside her a child but a few days old. They belonged to a Spaniard, who had taken this revenge on the negro, for abetting Marianne, the woman, in her rejection of some dishonourable proposals which her master had made to her. Filmer purchased them of the Spaniard, who pretended that he had thus treated the negro, because he had surprised him performing the abominable ceremonies of the religion of Benin. Wilmot received them of his friend, who now also lived in his family. Marianne became the favourite of his wife; and Francisco, by his good sense and his knowledge of agriculture, acquired the confidence of Wilmot, and the esteem of every one.

This man came to his master at the beginning of the night. "The chief of the blacks," says he, "is a native of Benin; he adores the great Orisa, the Lord of life, and the Father of mankind; he must, therefore, be guided by justice and benevolence: He comes to punish the enemies of the children of Orisa; but you who have consoled them in their misery, he will respect. Let him know by one of our brethren of Benin, how you have treated your slaves, and you will see those warriors fire their muskets in the air,

and throw their spears at your feet." His advice was followed, and a messenger dispatched to John.

When day appeared, it discovered a scene of desolation. Most of the houses within view were on fire, and the plantations laid waste. In a few places the cattle were seen feeding in security, but in most, the men and animals were discovered flying across the country, pursued by the exasperated negroes. John had given orders to spare neither man, woman, nor child, in the places where his brethren had been harshly treated; in the others, he contented himself with giving liberty to the slaves, but he set fire to every house that was deserted. In his course he proceeded to the plantation of Wilmot, with a detachment of thirty men.

John, or rather Zimeo, (for the revolted negroes quit the names they have received on their arrival in the colonies,) was a young man, about two and twenty years of age; the statues of Apollo and Antinous do not show more regular features, or more beautiful proportions. He had an air of grandeur, and seemed born for command. He was still warm from the fight; but, in accosting Wilmot and Filmer, his eyes expressed affection and good-will; the most opposite sentiments shewed themselves by turns in his countenance; he was almost, in the same moment, sorrowful and gay, furious and tender. "I have avenged my race," said he, "and myself; think not hardly, ye men of peace, of the unfortunate Zimeo; shrink not at the blood with which he is covered; it is that of the inhuman; it is to terrify the wicked that I set no bounds to my vengeance." Then turning to the slaves, "chuse," says he, "whether you will follow me to the mountain, or remain with your master." But the negroes falling at the feet of Wilmot, swore, with one voice, that they would rather die than leave him; that he had been a father to them, rather

than a master ; and that their servitude had been a blessing, rather than a bondage.

At this scene Zimeo was affected and agitated with various emotions ; lifting up to heaven his eyes, that were ready to overflow, " O great Orifsa !" cried he, " thou who hast formed the heart, look down on these grateful men, these true men, and punish the barbarians that despise us, and treat us as we do not treat the beasts that thou hast made for our use !"

After this exclamation, he gave the hand of friendship to Wilmot and Filmer ; " thanks to Orifsa," says he, " I have found some whites that I can love ! my destiny is in your power, and all the riches I have made myself master of, shall be yours, in return for the favour I have to ask of you."

Wilmot assured him that he would, without recompence, do him any service that was in his power : He invited him to repose himself, and ordered refreshments to be brought for his attendants.

" My friend," said he, " the great Orifsa knows that Zimeo is not naturally cruel ; but the whites have separated me from all I hold dear, from the wise Matomba, who was the friend and the guide of my youth ; and from the young beauty, who was my heart's whole treasure. Think not hardly, ye men of peace, of the unfortunate Zimeo. You can procure him a ship, and you can conduct him to the place where those are detained, who are necessary to his existence.

At this moment, a young slave, a native of Benin, coming to speak with Wilmot, no sooner cast his eyes on Zimeo, than he gave a shriek, and retired with the greatest precipitation. Zimeo was silent for a moment, when, turning to Wilmot and his friend, " listen, ye men of peace," said he, " to the story of my misfortunes ; and acknowledge that I deserve your pity rather than your detestation.

To be continued.

INTELLIGENCE RESPECTING ARTS IN INDIA.

I HAVE had occasion frequently to mention, in the course of these volumes, Dr James Anderson, physician in Madras, who has so eminently distinguished himself for his indefatigable zeal in promoting useful arts and manufactures in India. Every dispatch brings fresh proofs of the ardour of his mind, and of his happy success in these laudable pursuits. The editor has been favoured, by the Swallow packet, with a volume of printed letters, containing his correspondence with a great variety of persons in India, Africa and Europe, from the 22d of May 1787, till the 16th of September 1791, containing an immense variety of useful hints and discoveries in natural history, and views of the natural productions, the arts, manners, and private situation of the people in those remote regions, that are no where else to be found. Some extracts from this volume will prove highly interesting to our readers.

It will be recollected, that the first object of this nature, that strongly attracted Dr Anderson's attention, was 'an insect of the *coccus* tribe, which induced him to think that the cochineal insect might be reared there to great advantage; but after some trials, it was found, that the *coccus madraspatensis*, as he named it, was not the true cochineal, nor could any of the *opuntia mitis*, or *nopal* of the Spaniard, be found in any part of the British settlements in India. At length, however, one of his acquaintances, major Cochrane, now retired from India, and settled in East Lothian, accidentally discovered this plant in China, and sent some cuttings of it to Madras. About the same time he received a plant of the American *nopal*, by another correspondent, from the Isle of France, and a

third from the king's gardens at Kew, by the favour of Sir Joseph Banks. All these arrived safe, and were found to be exactly the same plant. A piece of ground was appropriated by government for a nopalry, under the direction of Dr Anderson, where there are now many thousand plants of it, in the most thriving condition, ready to receive the cochineal insect as soon as it shall arrive, which the India directors, under the superintendence of Sir Joseph Banks, have given orders to procure and forward thither long ago. It is probable they may be already arrived; and after that time the culture of the cochineal may be considered as permanently established in India.

The basis on which Dr Anderson rests his hopes of success in this and other enterprizes in India, is not only the favourableness of the climate, but also an immense overflowing of population in that country, in proportion to the demand for labour there, the astonishing cheapness of provisions among the poor Gentoos, who live upon rice, and the roots of the *nymphaea aquatica*, which are reared at scarcely any expence, and the consequent cheapness of labour over all that district. "I must observe," says Mr Towns to Dr Anderson, in his letter from Vizagapatnam, dated May 19. 1791, "that the price of labour is very low, viz. a man *per* day, five dubs, a woman, three dubs, stout boys and girls, two dubs, and the exchange eighty-eight dubs for one rupee, (*i. e.* 2s. 3d.) which will purchase the labour of seventeen men, and one woman for one day, or twenty-nine one-third, of women, or forty-four of boys and girls, according to the nature of the work you may have in hand." This is a degree of cheapness of which we in Europe could not, I think, have any comprehension. Allow me to ask if the labour of a *slave*

in any part of the world can be obtained at as low a price?

In prosecuting the experiments on cochineal, and examining the various insects of the coccus tribe that could be met with in India, a great variety of this class of insects were found that fed on a vast diversity of plants; and as it is already known that many varieties of these insects are useful in arts, it is highly probable, that it will be found, at some future period, that every one of them may be converted to some purpose very beneficial to man. Besides the *kermes*, cultivated to such a great extent in Spain, under the name of *grana*, and the *cochineal*, which has long formed one of the most valuable productions of the Spanish settlements in the new world, Dr Anderson has lately discovered, that it is from an insect nearly allied to this tribe that the Chinese extract a valuable kind of lac, which they call *pe-la*, of which a full account is contained in the following letter :

Of the pe-la, or Chinese wax.

Extract of a letter from Sir Joseph Banks, bart. to Dr Anderson, Madras.

“ I now resume my pen again to renew the correspondence, on finding, by the perusal of your letter to the governor and council of Fort St George, dated November 24. 1789, that you have made a discovery which carries with it a probability of future advantage, both to the company and yourself.

“ I mean, as you will readily understand, the animal that produces a substance similar to, or rather exactly the same as the *pe-la* of the Chinese, to which article in your letter I refer.

" I have tried the Chinese experiment upon it as you direct, with oil, and found the produce to be an excellent tallow ; but its original qualities, as a kind of wax, are those from whence I expect the principal benefit will be derived.

" As far as I have been able to satisfy myself from the small quantity I possess, which was put into my hands by the obliging friendship of Mr Wisset of the committee of warehouses, it is a real wax, but a sort that possesses many qualities, far superior to those of the ordinary bees wax, even after the substance has passed through all the stages of expensive manufacture, necessary to render it fit for domestic uses, and hence it will always bear a much higher price ; and as in China it is reserved for the use of the mandarines, and the emperor, it is likely, when we have discovered all its valuable properties, that it will sell for many times the value of that article.

" I find, by experiment, that though boiling water will not render it fluid, it will make it so soft as easily to pass through the texture of coarse linen ; it may, therefore, easily be freed from the husks of the insects with which, in its crude state, it is encumbered, by the same process as is used in the preparation of shell lac, and afterwards it may be pressed together into a solid form for the convenience of freight. Possibly by the addition of heavy fluids, or by the use of a digester, it may be obtained, in the first instance, in a state of actual liquidity.

" The price at which it may be procured, is a subject of which you yourself can be the only judge ; from the mode of propagating the insect, (which I take to be a species of the coccus) pointed out by the Chinese, and which is wonderfully similar to the mode of managing cochineal in America, it is fair to conjecture that it will in time be obtained at a reasonable price.

"If, Sir, you continue to investigate the use to which this new substance may be applied, I shall consider myself as obliged to you if you will send me a few pounds, if it can be shipped at a moderate expence; in which case I will endeavour to call the attention of the Court of Directors towards it, by imparting to them the success of all such experiments, as I may be fortunate enough to devise, tending to prove its utility and consequent value;

I am," &c.

Sebo Square, Jan. 31. 1791.

Letter from Dr James Anderson to Sir Joseph Banks, bart. giving a more particular account of the white lac, and mode of rearing it;—of some other Chinese productions;—and of an economical mode of obtaining the red lac.

DEAR SIR,

"I AM favoured with your letter of January 31. and observe the just idea you entertain of the advantage that may result from an attention to the white lac mentioned in my letters to this government, of November 24. and December 11. 1789.

"I have now brought the white lac insects from the *staphylæa vepretum* of the forest, to feed on the wodier trees in my garden, where they thrive exceedingly. As the wodier is so succulent, that cut down, and exposed to the open air, for a month of hot season, it may be again planted with a certainty of growing, and taking root in any soil, it can be propagated with great facility.

"To this facility of its growth we are indebted for the road leading from Fort St George to St Thomas-mount, [about nine miles,] being formed into an avenue of wodier trees, on which it might be easy to rear several tons of white lac in a season; for, as you justly observe, it is only ne-

cessary to place the insects on the trees, in the same manner as the cochineal insects, at the time the young are issuing from the husk or skin of the mother. Branched hairs on the head, remarkably converging hairs from the rump, and the make of the body, (which I have observed in the microscope, and found different from any thing of the coccus kind, but agreeing in all these respects with the insect described by Mr Keir of Patna, and published in the philosophic transactions for the year 1791,) leave no room to doubt that it is an insect of the same genus.

“ It is difficult to get a quantity of the white lac, as the children in the adjacent villages, and even people employed to gather it, in spite of any reward, eat up the greater part ; this lac, when newly removed from the trees, being repleté with a watery juice of a delicious taste, and I believe it is possessed of medicinal qualities very conducive to health. I nevertheless send half a dozen of pounds weight, in its natural state, from the woods, and four pounds weight melted and strained through coarse muslin, in the manner you advert to, for any experiments you may think proper to make, together with a branch of the woder tree from my plantation, covered with insects, that you may see the state of cultivation to which I have brought them, which will be delivered to you (in a small box in which they are packed) by captain Cunningham of the navy, who goes passenger to Europe in the Leopard man of war, and has been obliging enough to take charge of it.

“ At the time I wrote government, I had plants of the *staphylea* brought into my grounds ; but finding it was a small shrub of slow growth, I soon gave the preference to the woder tree, for the cultivation of this insect ; and since the receipt of your letter by the earl Cornwallis,

have ordered ten acres to be laid out in a plantation of them.

“ I have the assurances of the gentlemen supercargoes at Canton, as well as of the honourable Court of Directors, for a supply of the plants of the *varnish* and *tallow* trees, from the western provinces of China; and having printed all these communications for the public information, there cannot exist a doubt that the gentlemen will likewise pay attention to the *can-la-chu* and *choui-la-chu*, and many other valuable productions of that country, so that we shall soon be enabled to determine whether white lac is the *pe-la* of the Chinese or not.

“ When fresh gathered it smells of bees wax, and melted with lintseed oil, becomes exactly of the colour of yellow wax, although with olive oil no change of colour is produced; from hence, and from the bleaching of wax, it would appear, that the yellow colour of this compound may be derived from the particular state in which the vegetable mucilage is placed; for this mucilage is what constitutes the difference between lintseed and olive oil, and a similar mucilage is all that we know wax can be deprived of by bleaching.

“ I am just exposing some that are fresh gathered on a terrace, in the sunshine, where the thermometer rises to 145, to dry up the watery moisture, and have thereby rendered them so soft, that they lose their form on being handled, and adhere to each other like soft wax.

“ You will be able to judge, from what I have stated regarding the woder tree, and the specimen adhering to it, that the expence of cultivating the insects in this way, will be very moderate, in comparison of any other mode in which they may be obtained; and I should imagine that the ground rent, and two labourers an acre, will prove sufficient expence to produce an hundred pounds annually.

“ At Madras, where every thing is double the expence at which the same thing can be procured on other parts of the coast, the Company take a pagoda and a half for every acre of waste land yearly, and the labourer has a pagoda and a quarter a-month; which together, reckoning the exchange eight shillings, amounts to twelve guineas for the first cost of a hundred pounds, or two hundred and forty guineas a ton.

“ Regarding the freight, it is the gentlemen on your side of the water who are the arbiters. I believe that the Company's ships are taken up at twenty guineas a ton, so that the gross expence of landing a ton of this lac in England, might be defrayed for two hundred and fifty guineas, as half freight is all that could reasonably be edmanded for the homeward passage.

“ By bringing branches of the *mimosa intsea*, covered with the red lac insects, from the woods, at the time the young are issuing from the parent, and fastening them on hedge-rows of the *mimosa madraspatensis* of plukenet, and trees of the *rbamuus jujuba*, I am establishing an easier mode of collecting this article than has hitherto been practised, when the labour of a whole day's search could only procure a few ounces,” &c.

Fort St George June 6. 1791,

Of the other objects of Dr Anderson's pursuit an account will be given in a future number.

ANECDOTE.

FOOTE, on seeing a nobleman who had very thin arms and legs, with a pot belly, said, in his usual sarcastic spirit, that he looked like a greyhound that had got the dropsy.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE letter of *Senex* is thankfully received, and shall appear as soon as possible; as also the anonymous explanation of the stone coffin, &c.

The communication by a *Friend to Liberty* is also received.

And *Matthew Bramble*. Wit and humour are delicate weapons, which require to be handled with great address. Like a razor they derive their whole value from being extremely keen. Like a razor also their value does not depend on their materials only, but on a happy cast when they are forming. From the same materials may be formed a razor worth a guinea, and another not worth a groat; but if a *knife* should not be fit to cut quills, it may still be very valuable for many other purposes. In like manner, though the materials may be good, where wit and humour are attempted, unless an essay be struck off in a happy moment, it is little valued; but if it be written in a plain, and unaffected manner, it may be very much esteemed.

Thoughts on *Hypocrisy*, &c. are received, as the writer will see, BEE February 22. Correspondents will please observe, that as the BEE is now generally put to press a considerable time before publication, the receipt of their pieces cannot be acknowledged so soon as they might expect.

The essay on *Fortune-hunting* is come to hand. Pity it is so long.

Antinous is respectfully informed, that though the Editor wishes to oblige all, he finds himself running so fast in arrears to his correspondents, that he does not know how to overtake them.

Anti-farmer general is thankfully received.

The song by *A. S.* and the communications by the *Phœnix-bunter*, are come to hand, and shall appear as soon as convenience will permit.

PREMIUMS.

AT the desire of the gentleman who gives the premium of two guineas, offered in vol. vii. p. 2-224, it is hereby restricted to original essays in *Verse* only, that are not of a great length.

A premium also of two guineas will be given by the Editor, for the best original essay in *Prose*. The competition pieces for these premiums to be transmitted to the Editor, post paid, on or before the 1st of November next, accompanied each with a sealed note, containing the name and address of the writer, none of which shall be opened unless the successful pieces.

The Editor reserves a power to withhold the premiums altogether, unless the judges, to whom the pieces shall be submitted, think some one of them are deserving of it.

Abstract and speculative reasoning, especially where it has a metaphysical tendency, should be avoided, and perspicuous brevity studied.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14. 1792

To the Editor of the Bee.

ON THE POLITICAL PROGRESS OF BRITAIN.

Facilis est descensus avern.

VIRG.

'Tis easy into hell to fall ;
But to get out again is all.

SIR,

“ THE ground of the first war,” says Dr Swift, “ after the revolution, as to the part we had in it, was to make France acknowledge the late king, and to recover *Hudson's bay* ! But during that whole war the sea was almost entirely neglected, and the greatest part of six millions, *annually*, employed to *enlarge the frontier of the Dutch*. For the king was a general, but not an admiral ; and although king of England, was a native of Holland.

“ After ten years of fighting, to little purpose, after the loss of above *an hundred thousand men*, and a debt remaining of *twenty millions*, we at length hearkened to the terms of peace, which

“ was concluded with great advantages to the empire and Holland, but *none at all to us* *.”

This account does not give us much encouragement to send for a second sovereign from Holland. Dutch generosity appears to have proved a very miserable bargain. It is hardly possible, that James, with all his priests and dragoons, could have committed one hundredth part of this havock.

The war of 1701, remains an astonishing instance of national madness. Charles II. of Spain, became justly exasperated, by what Dr Swift calls “ our *infamous* treaty of partition.” Instead of repeating the trite circumstances of this transaction, I shall illustrate it by an exact and interesting parallel. Let us suppose, that for some years before the death of queen Elizabeth, all Europe had foreseen that she was to die childless, that James VI. of Scotland was to be her successor, and that by such an increase of dominion, England was to *secure* a decisive addition of power and importance. “ No,” exclaimed the Dutch, the French, and the Austrians, “ we cannot, Elizabeth, permit you and your people to chuse a sovereign for England. We all know that *Master* James † is a fool. He has married a daughter of the king of Denmark; and hence the British empire would become but a province to the court of Copenhagen. We have formed a much better plan, and you must adopt it. Jersey, Guernsey, and Plymouth, Dover castle, and the

* The Conduct of the Allies.

† Henry IV. of France used to call him so.

“ county of Kent, are to compose a frontier in the
“ hands of his most christian majesty. The isles of
“ Wight, Anglesea, and Man, must be delivered up
“ to their High Mightinesses for the convenience of
“ importing gin, and you must likewise permit them
“ to catch and cure pilchards on the coast of Corn-
“ wall. To Ireland you never had any title but
“ that of a robber, and as you are detested by the
“ whole nation, to the very last man, it is neces-
“ sary, for preserving *the balance of power*, to de-
“ clare them independent. As for the rest of
“ your dominions, we have brought you a GERMAN
“ master, born at the distance of a thousand
“ miles, a stranger to your country, your laws,
“ your manners, and your language. In defence of
“ *his right*, we have disembarked on the coast of
“ Yorkshire two hundred thousand armed ruffians;
“ and unless you instantly acknowledge him as suc-
“ cessor, we shall spread desolation from Caithness
“ to the land’s end. If his Danish majesty declines
“ to assist us in opposing his son-in-law, our admi-
“ rals have orders to beat Copenhagen about his
“ ears. We are perfectly determined; and before
“ we give up the point, we shall spend the last drop
“ of our blood, and the last farthing of our money;
“ besides diving into more debt than our posterity
“ can pay off in an hundred generations.” Perhaps
you may fancy this stile a burlesque; but the di-
vision of the territories of a great nation was
denounced in a tone of more outrageous inso-
lence. On the news of this projected partition,
Charles, to disappoint such harpies, transferred his
dominions, by a testament, to Philip Duke of Anjou,

44 *political progress of Britain.* *March 14.*
the second son of the dauphin of France, and grand-
son of Lewis XIV. England determined, at all ha-
zards, to enforce the pretended right of the archduke
Charles, the second son of Leopold emperor of Ger-
many. The alleged reason was, lest Lewis should
unite France and Spain under his own government.
“ We hastily engaged in a war,” says Dr Swift,
“ which hath cost us SIXTY MILLIONS; and after re-
“ peated, as well as *unexpected* success in arms, hath
“ put us and our posterity in a worse condition, not
“ only than any of our allies, but than even *our con-*
“ *quered enemies themselves.**” To complete the
farce, in the course of this war, the emperor him-
self died on the 1st of May 1705, and about six
years after, his eldest son Joseph; upon which, in
the year 1711, his second son Charles, who had been
our intended *king of Spain*, was declared emperor.
Hence, *even upon our own mad principles*, it became
still more necessary to oppose his succession than
that of the duke of Anjou. The war was, therefore,
put to an end as fast as possible. By the peace, be-
sides Minorca and Gibraltar, we obtained a partial
right of trading to Spanish America, which produced
the Spanish war of 1739, and Nova Scotia, which
produced the French war in 1756. The whole ori-
gin, progress and termination of this contest, displays
such a series of blunders as never, I hope, disgraced
any history except our own.

“ Let truth employ ten thousand several tongues,
“ And every tongue bring in a several tale,
“ And every tale condemns us all for mad men.”

* The Conduct of the Allies.

To Dr Swift, chiefly, we are indebted for having escaped the destruction of another campaign. His pamphlet, distinguished for boldness, perspicuity, and classical simplicity, excited a sort of political earthquake; and, more than all his admirable verses, must endear him to distant posterity. Yet, even at this day, we are deafened about the glorious victories of the duke of Marlborough, and though by the death of the emperor Joseph, the object of dispute was utterly extinguished, a crowd of authors, even at this day, lament that our commander was checked in the career of pillage and butchery. Happy might it have been for this country, had Marlborough, with all his forces, perished on the field of Blenheim; since it may be supposed, that such a stroke would at once have blasted our crusades upon the continent. As if his Grace had not enjoyed sufficient opportunities of plundering the treasury of the nation, as if the manor of Woodstock, the palace of Blenheim*, and an hundred thousand pounds a-year†, had not been adequate to the services of himself and his dutchess, we are saddled with an annual payment of five thousand pounds to his family for ever. When a constitution, deserving that name, shall succeed our present political anarchy, it is not difficult to foresee some of the first objects of reformation. The earl of Chatham enjoys four thousand pounds a-year, because

* Dr Swift estimates Woodstock at forty thousand pounds, and adds, that Blenheim house had cost two hundred thousand pounds, and was at the time of his writing *unfinished*.

† The sum has been stated higher, but such computations are always in part at random.

his father added seventy millions to the national debt. The duke of Richmond raises from the city of London an annual revenue, said to be twenty thousand pounds, because he is descended from the natural son of a criminal *, who deserved an hundred times over to have been flogged out of human society.

Whatever were the merits of the peace of Utrecht, it gave the utmost offence to George I. The duke of Ormond, and Lord Bolingbroke, were compelled to fly their country, and Harley, earl of Oxford, among others, was arrested and sent to the tower, though he was at that time so much indisposed by the gravel, that Dr Mead declared his removal was at the hazard of his life. He was confined for two years, and at last dismissed without a trial. The illustrious family of Ormond was finally ruined. The conduct of what was called the whig party, at this period was such, as might have been expected from a horde of Tartars. Such plain language cannot be employed by an historian like Smollet, writing for a sum of money; and whose bulky production, to ensure a sale, must be in some measure adapted to the vices of the public; but the facts here stated are unquestionably true, and truth, while it requires no tenderness of investigation, disdains all subterfuges.

From this time forward, during many years, our history presents a tiresome, uniform, and disgusting scene. On account of our connection with Hanover, we engaged in a variety of absurd and expensive alliances with different nations on the continent; and

* Charles I.

“ is there any Briton so weak as to think, or so fool-
 “ hardy as to affirm, that this was a British quar-
 “ rel*?” We acted in a double capacity, as the
 bullies and the bubbles of Europe. In the year
 1718, we engaged in another war with Spain, and on
 this occasion *France* † combined with England, Hol-
 land, and the emperor, to invade that kingdom. How
 striking is the madness of modern politics ! Six years
 had not yet elapsed, since the termination of a war
 of ten or eleven campaigns ; and *that* war had been
 undertaken, to prevent a French prince from succeed-
 ing to the crown of Spain, lest, as a certain conse-
 quence, that country should become a province of
 France. Within the short, the very short space of
 six years only, France combined with his former
 enemies, against that individual French successor.
 Sir Robert Walpole ‡ asserted in the House of Com-
 mons, that “ our conduct was contrary to the law of
 “ nations, and a *breach of the most solemn treaties!*”
 We could not pretend, that Spain had afforded to
 Britain the most remote pretence of provocation :
 But the king of Spain had quarrelled with the em-
 peror, about the possession of Sicily and Sardinia.
 The war was extremely unpopular, and the Spani-
 ards were compelled to submit.

Our next war with the same nation, commenced
 in February 1727, with the siege of Gibraltar : And,
 it is curious enough, that in this war the emperor
 espoused the cause of the king of Spain, as a proper
 return for our knight errantry in having seconded his

* Smollet vol. x. p. 319.

† Upon the 29th December 1718.

‡ Smollet vol. x. p. 238.

claims upon the same court. George I. had expressed a disposition of restoring the fortrefs to its proper owners. The dispute was soon ended. In March 1729, our *wise* parliament addressd George II. with a request that he would take care to preserve "his undoubted right" to Minorca, and Gibraltar. This *undoubted right* was at best but that of an incendiary, who after setting fire to his neighbour's house, rushes in to plunder it. This remark implies no censure on the character of George II. The ungenerous act of theft, for it does not even arise to the dignity of robbery, was perpetrated upon a helpless nation, long before the accession of the House of Brunswick.

I shall beg leave to conclude this sketch in a future letter, and I am, &c.

Laurencekirk,
Feb. 25. 1792.

TIMOTHY THUNDERPROOF.

MEMOIRS OF ABBÉ BLANCHET.

Continued from p. 9.

IF he did not lose his reason, we must allow that it was often overshadowed. The idea of death continually before his eyes, and the fear of the judgment of God Almighty consequently, full of justice and compassion, made him sometimes bewildered; so that what ought to have comforted him, only served to intimidate him. I can easily believe that a wicked and corrupt man, disgusted with his own vices, may be afraid to live or die; but I cannot comprehend how a man, naturally good, who never

acted but well, who never wished but to do good, could have such fears.

It is time now to show the Abbé Blanchet in a more interesting point of view, and to resolve, if possible, the moral problem which his life presents us. We have seen how he lived with himself, let us now see how he lived with others: It appears that from his earliest youth he had two principles of acting within him, which never ceased urging him in contrary directions; hence his love of indolence, when at the same he was eager to adorn his mind, to finish and bring to perfection his different works; his bodily organs were not adequate to those of his mind; having more imagination than passion, he was restless, uneasy, and wearied himself for trifles. What he most dreaded was, the carriers of notes and expresses, which were sometimes sent to him; he would turn pale as they came to him. "You cannot conceive," as he writes to his friend, "what a hard exercise for me is handling a pen! there are days when I would rather walk two leagues than write two lines." When he depended solely on himself he could not have any sudden wants, unless they were absolutely indispensable. I recollect a very odd trait, to say no worse, which he always reproached himself for. The friendship that a great man honoured him with, who was equally to be praised for his pure manners, his talents, and his understanding, was one of the principal reasons for his journey to England. He had been in London but a few days, when the duke of _____, at that time ambassador there, was much hurried to add to an important dispatch a tran-

slation of some speeches in parliament. The duke divided them into three parts, took one himself, gave another to his secretary, and hastily sent the other to the Abbé, who understood English perfectly well, and who had translated different parts of English books. The poor Abbé no sooner sees the packet from the ambassador, and learns its contents, and what is expected from him, than he cries out, "Oh heavens! how I am treated! It is the very day I expect my washerwoman, and they load me like a jack-ass! What can I do? what business had I in this cursed country?" He packed up his things, and returned directly to France. But the best is, that after such behaviour, the duke, who knew him well, pitied him and did not love him the less for it. Some few capricious acts and little humours cannot tarnish so good a character. I did not promise the life of a perfect, but of an excellent man.

He did not confine himself to the simple rules of good breeding; this man whose early infirmities had considerably altered his temper, and slackened his activity, found, in his wishes to serve his friends, a principle of life which made him indefatigable; one might say sometimes that his mind was useless to himself and belonged to others. The distress of others was painted in his face; and when he suspected any of his neighbours wanted necessaries, he could not take any food before he had assisted them. Why did he always succour the blind? "It is," says he, "because they are in want of the organ which commands pity; and they must be sought after so much

the more attentively because they are more neglected."

I am very sorry that the modesty of M. de Chevanes will not permit me to publish the letters of his friend ; for, independent of the graces, the mirth, and the wit, interrupted indeed sometimes by cries of grief, there are some curious anecdotes, and some portraits very well drawn. One may judge by the following : " I subscribe with all my heart to your opinion of the late cardinal de Fleury ; he was I think a wise and a good man ; he had, if I dare say so, a great soul, but temperate and moderate, who neither admired nor despised any thing ; who did great and little things, with the same manner ; who with a great deal of application, joined to much address and patience, rendered himself capable of seeing every thing, and conducting any thing. He was a disinterested and modest minister, who loved the state and the king, and who was not loved as he ought to have been by any order of the state ; a man really deserving admiration, who did not desire it, and who had it not." The continuation of this letter characterises too strongly the Abbé Blanchet to omit it : " There is, if I am not deceived a portrait in all the rules, one feature is however wanting, which does infinite honour to the cardinal, it was his kindness to men of worth, to men of any country. The holy man he sent for from Chartres, or rather from Auneau, and whom, as it is said, he wished to make a bishop, this M. Cassegrain, of whom you spoke to me, is a man I know intimately well. Would you believe it, Sir, he comes from my village ; he is the son of the surgeon of Angerville.

Nothing is more true, than what I have just informed you, and you may congratulate me upon it," One must have known the Abbé well to feel all the warmth of this passage which appears so moderate.

About forty years ago, M. Bouvant was given over by the faculty; he told his friend Blanchet, "from the character, I know you to have, you will be always poor; there is every appearance, my friend, I cannot last long, and when I am dead what will become of you?" The Abbé wished to reply, but the sick man, taking advantage of his condition, ordered him to be silent, and dictated his last orders. "My will is, that you enjoy the interest of ten thousand crowns, which I have earned, for your life. Don't make any difficulties, the principal will return to my family." M. Bouvant recovered. Some time afterwards the Abbé related this trait to the duchess of Aumont, who was so delighted that she urged him to tell it her again. "Why, madam, what I have just related is nothing to what followed; when my poor Bouvant was recovered, I found him quite sorry that he was so well."

Such was the character, the mind, and talents of this good man. As for his life, do not let us be rash in believing, or asserting that it was unhappy, because he saw only misery. What life is exempt from it? For me I feel that virtue forbids me to deplore the loss of him, who could say, at the end of every day, "Heaven is my witness, I love God above all things, and mankind as well as myself." Mankind!—he often loved them in preference. That glo-

rious passion glistened in his eyes, and was visible in every word. Have we not seen that he was the tutelar genius of all those with whom he lived. When he perceived himself dying, all his regret was to leave so many unhappy mortals behind : " Oh !" exclaimed he, " if it was but given to a mortal to make happiness a legacy." The Abbé Blanchet died at St Germain *en laye*, the 29th January 1784. Good men regret him, his friends bewail his loss, and the poor bless his memory.

FARTHER REMARKS ON THE CIRCULAR BUILDINGS CALLED DHUNES* IN SCOTLAND, WITH CONJECTURES CONCERNING THE USES FOR WHICH THESE HAVE BEEN ORIGINALLY INTENDED.

Continued from vol. vii. p. 289.

BUILDINGS of this sort, have never yet been discovered in England ; nor have I heard of any on the east coast of Scotland farther south than Rossshire. Many vestiges of these are to be found among the Western Isles, and along the western coasts of Scotland far south. Dun M'Swene in Kilmartine parish, and Dun Aula in Craignish, both in Argyleshire, are the southermost I have yet heard of. Mr Pennant has described, with great accuracy, the remains of two structures of that sort in *Glen-elg* ; and *Dhunedornadilla*, in the parish of Rea in Sutherland, has been accurately described by the reverend Mr Pope. They are also frequently to be met with in the Shetland isles, as appears from the following extract of a letter from Arthur Nicholson, younger, of Lochend

* So I find this word should be spelt.

esq; near Lerwick. After mentioning them in general, he thus proceeds :

“ I shall give you,” says he, “ an account of the principal one, which I conjectured to have been the residence or strong hold of their prince for the time. It is situated on a small island, about half a mile long, lying off the S. E. end of this country. This castle stands about twenty yards from the sea, and seems to be of a different kind from any others in the country, there being no ditches round it ; but I can trace a slight stone dike that has encompassed it. This castle is by far the most entire of any in this country, it being still forty-five feet high. It is built round a circular court, twenty feet diameter. You enter through the wall, from the side next the sea, by a low door into the court ; on the opposite side of which, is a door raised three feet from the ground, which leads to the stair. The stair is placed in the heart of the wall, and leads up by high narrow steps to the top of the building. The thickness of the wall is sixteen feet. The whole height is divided into stories about five feet high. Each of these stories or galleries go round the building, in the heart of the wall, except where the stair interrupts. In the inside of the building there are three ranges of square holes, each range going from bottom to top, which divide the whole structure into three unequal segments. These holes are separated from each other by one or two stones’ thickness ; and are from eight inches to a foot square. I imagine they have been intended for throwing missile weapons from, in case of the enemy getting possession of the court.

“ The galleries are divided from one another by broad thin stones, which form so many floors and roofs. The building on the outside appears to taper considerably, till within one-third of the whole height, when it goes up perpendicularly; and rather seems to fall without the plumb *. The inside wall is plumb. What makes me imagine that this has been the seat of the prince is, that the place next adjacent to it is called Conigsburg, which is the Norwegian term for king’s seat.” All these buildings, he remarks, are of dry stone.

The structure here described, resembles those of Dornadilla, and of *Glen-elg*, (which last I have seen since the former part of this paper was written, and examined with great care,) much more than it does those of Dunagglesag and Dunrobin, though they all agree in their leading features. The stairs, and the galleries in the heart of the wall, being the most striking peculiarity of these buildings, and what is most difficult to comprehend, I shall take some pains to render these intelligible.



SECTION,

Representing the stairs and galleries in the heart of the wall of a Dhune laid open.

* This is a peculiarity not observable in any of those I have seen or heard described in Scotland.

The above sketch may be supposed to represent a section of one of these circular walls, in which the inner surface is taken down, so as to lay the stairs, and galleries open to the view ; you may be supposed to enter the lowermost stair at A, ascend the flight of steps, and you land on the horizontal gallery E. Before you can reach the other flight of steps you must move forward to F ; and so on round the whole building, till you reach the foot of the next flight of steps at H. This you ascend till you reach the second gallery at I. Here you again proceed forward round the whole area till you arrive at the third flight of steps K ; and by a similar process, repeated at every gallery, you at last gain the top of the whole. If the paper on which the engraving is made be bent in a circular form, you will thus have a most perfect idea of these stairs and galleries, which you will easily see are altogether unlike to those in any other building on the globe, and clearly indicate that they must have been appropriated to some particular purpose, very different from any of the ordinary uses of life. I shall next endeavour to discover what these purposes were.

Conjectures concerning the uses to which the buildings above described have been appropriated.

WHEN the manners of a people, and the customs to which these gave rise have changed, in a country where the art of writing was unknown, it must happen, that if any works of art have been so strong as to resist the ravages of time for a long period, every memorial of the uses for which they were originally intended, may be totally lost ; and it may become a

matter of very great difficulty, to form even a probable conjecture on that head. Such is actually the case at present with regard to those buildings which form the object of our present inquiry; no record, no tradition even is preserved of their origin and uses. Formerly, it was customary to ascribe every stupenduous undertaking to the ancient race of giants, with which traditionary history had peopled every country of the globe, in remote times; but we do not find that this universal bias takes place here. The only circumstance that bears the appearance of tradition in this case is the vulgar name usually appropriated to these structures, *viz. the druid's house*, as the druid's house of Dun-agglesag the druid's house of Glenelg, &c. But it is well known, that most things that are extraordinary in Scotland, have been attributed blindly to the druids, so that little reliance can be had upon this circumstance.

Modern antiquarians, as might be expected, are divided in opinion concerning the uses of these structures; but these conjectures may be all reduced to the following, *viz. first*, that they have been intended to serve the purpose of watch towers; or *second*, places of defence; *third*, habitations for the princes or grandees of the land; *fourth*, places of religious worship; each of which shall be considered in order.

1. Watch towers.

MANY persons believe that these structures were erected, like the watch towers on the southern coasts of Spain, to serve as beacons, on which fires might be lighted, to alarm the country in case of an invasion

by an enemy. The stairs in the heart of the wall were supposed to lead to the top, like the stairs of a modern light-house, for the purpose of giving an alarm. To render this conjecture more probable, those who have adopted it, have assumed as a *postulatum*, that no tower of this kind is to be found that is not within sight of some others; and that a series of these towers may be traced, thus within view of one another, all along the coast. Few words, however, will be necessary to refute this hypothesis.

In the first place, it is not true that these structures are always so placed, as to be seen from each other. I do not recollect to have seen one that is within sight of two others; and I have seen one at Dunbeath in Caithness, which is placed in a deep valley, surrounded with high banks on every side, that cannot perhaps be seen from any point of view at two hundred yards distance; this one, therefore, could not have been intended for that purpose.

2. The site of these buildings is almost in all cases improperly chosen for this use. I have indeed seen some of them on the top of an eminence, but in general they are placed rather in a valley, or on a declivity, near the bottom of the hill, as at Glenelg and Dunagglesag.

3. It happens that there are very often two of these structures in the same valley, very near to one another, as is particularly remarkable at Glenelg, where the two *dbunes* stand upon the southern declivity of the hill, in the same valley, at the distance of not more than half a mile from each other, which

clearly proves that they could never have been intended for watch towers. And

Lastly, in a mountainous country like Scotland, tops of high hills, within view of each other at a great distance, formed natural alarm-posts, so infinitely superior to any artificial work for this purpose, that our forefathers must have been totally destitute of common sense, if they could ever have formed an idea of substituting such imperfect works as these in their stead. Other invincible objections to this hypothesis, arising from the construction of these piles themselves, might be urged; were it here necessary.

2. Forts, or places of strength.

I find that an opinion very generally prevails, especially among those who live at a distance, and never have seen any of these buildings, that they have undoubtedly been erected for the purpose of defence; but neither does this hypothesis appear to be tenible when it is nearly examined.

In the 1st. place, these buildings are so constructed, that they could have contained but very few persons, in proportion to the immense expence of erecting them. In those times it was necessary to shelter the whole body of the people, men, women, and children, from the rage of their enemies, and also their cattle, and valuable effects. The modern idea of a fortress, defended by a few warriors, to secure the possession of the country, would have been laughed at as ridiculous; for, as military expeditions were at that time merely predatory, and of short

continuance, these strong holds would have been passed by as of no avail, or at best it would only have been necessary to leave a guard sufficient to overawe the garrison, and to prevent a sally from it, to surprise them while they were busy pillaging the country.

2. The situation of these places effectually refutes the idea of their having been built for defence. Caledonia abounds with high mountains, and inaccessible rocks and fens, which would have been chosen as the situation for places of defence; for in such situations little art would have been necessary to render them impregnable. But it has been already observed, that these buildings are seldom to be found thus situated. The castles of future times were invariably so placed. Some of these *dbunes* are placed in the very bottom of deep vallies, as that at Dunbeath, in particular, which is so near to a steep rock, that rises much above it, that a stone might easily be thrown by the hand from it into the heart of the circular area itself. No person will believe that any set of men could have been so stupid as to chuse such a situation for a place of defence.

3. There is not, within any one of these structures that I have examined, the smallest appearance of a well, though water is always near them on the outside; and though it is not denied that it is *possible* wells might have been there, that are now filled up, yet there is no probability that if these wells had ever been there, the memory of them, by tradition, would have been entirely lost. I have seen many

ancient fortifications in which the wells had been entirely filled up, but the place where they had been is always pointed out by the country people in the neighbourhood. And

Lastly, it is certain that there never was, in any of these structures, the smallest opening in the wall, *outward*, through which any kind of missile weapon could have been thrown, to annoy the assailants; all the apertures in the wall, (which are in many cases very numerous,) being on the *inside* towards the circular area, where they could have been of no service had this been the original intention of these structures. There is even good reason to believe that the stairs, in no case while the buildings were entire, reached the top of the wall; so that the assailants might have come with great safety to the very foot of the wall, and deliberately pulled it down, while those within must have patiently waited their fate, without a possibility of giving their assailants the smallest annoyance.

From these considerations, to mention no more, I do not think it possible for any person seriously to believe that these structures had ever been intended to serve as places of defence.

To be continued.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

HAVING been for some months past in such a poor state of health as to be obliged to forego my usual amusement of reading, I had not an opportunity, till very lately, to know of the very obliging letter ad-

dress'd to me by your correspondent C. J. vol. 6. p. 180 who has so kindly interested himself in my welfare. I embrace the earliest opportunity of returning thanks for his benevolent inquiries. To complain of the natural distresses of senility would indicate a weakness that a wise man should be ashamed to own. These are the unavoidable consequences of age, and must be submitted to by every person whose years it shall please heaven to prolong beyond the usual lot of humanity; but the burden becomes the less oppressive, from the certainty that it is not long that these evils can endure. The human frame gradually falls to pieces, and in a few years suffers its heavenly visitor to escape, in spite of the efforts of friends or of foes to prolong its visit to this transitory scene.

Yet, though this consideration affords a kind of melancholy comfort, nothing can altogether remove the uneasy sensations that are the necessary consequences of human sufferings; nor is it possible for any human being, advanced in life, not to utter with emphasis, at times, such expressions as these: "*O le bel age de la jeunesse!*" "Rejoice O young man in thy strength, for age is dark and unlovely!" or not most cordially to wish that all those who have it now in their power to enjoy this fine season of youth, might be induced to prolong the period of it as long as possible. I much doubt if the desire of prolonging life itself, which nature hath so providentially impressed as an instinctive sensation on all the animal creation, can be more ardently wished for by old men, in general, than that youths would avail

themselves properly of the powers of that happy period of life. Young people, who naturally advert to their own feelings more than to those of others, too often overlook this circumstance, and complain of the tediousness of an old man when he attempts to convince them of the great importance of cautionary precepts. Nor is it in this instance only that harsh judgements are formed from an inattention to the feelings of others, in our journey through life. It is in like manner the cause of infinite jarrings, misunderstandings, and unhappiness, between the near relations of husband and wife, parents and children, companions and friends ; connections, which, but for this heedlessness of mind, are naturally calculated to smooth the difficulties that occur in our pilgrimage through life, though too frequently they prove the source of our greatest uneasiness.

But, Sir, I fear I shall become tiresome. And though, when I look back to the many hours of happiness that I myself might have enjoyed in the earlier part of life, had I been then duly aware of the importance of this consideration, it is impossible not to feel the most poignant regret at having suffered them to pass away *for ever* without enjoyment, or not anxiously to wish that others may profit by the dear bought experience ; yet when I also recollect with how much indifference, to give it the mildest name, I should then have listened to similar hints from aged persons, the pen drops from my hand in despair of benefiting those whose happiness I wish most anxiously to promote.

Adieu, then, good Sir, for the present. Continue to promote industry, sobriety and œconomy, and to cherish the beneficent affections of mankind; and if ever you should attain to an advanced period of life, you will then feel that the consciousness of this will afford you a pleasure that nothing else can confer. Should the approach of good weather bring additional strength, you may perhaps hear again from your friend and wellwisher.

SENEX.

READING MEMORANDUMS.

Continued from vol. vii. p. 176.

AVOID all heating, fermented, and spirituous liquors,

“ Which unnerve the limbs,
“ And dull the noble mind.”

It is not the hard bed, nor the homely board, that give stings to poverty: The oppressive insolence of *proud prosperity* alone can wound the ingenuous mind.

The satisfaction arising from a consciousness of innocence, are not of a fugitive kind: They will support us in the midst of the most trying calamities of human life.

Joy is of prodigious service to the features; it makes agreeable people look still more agreeable; and it makes even ugly beings to be endured.

He who is not born to alter the opinions of the age he lives in, ought always to respect them, so long as they are consistent with virtue and morality.

To be continued.

THE LIFE, DEATH, AND WONDERFUL ATCHIEVEMENTS OF
EDMUND BURKE, A NEW BALLAD.

Of all the deeds of high renown
Antiquity can brag on,
From Homer's times, to More that kill'd
Old Wantley's famous dragon,

By heroes sacred or profane,
By pagan, Jew, or Turk,
There's none this day can be compar'd
With those of EDMUND BURKE!

Inur'd was EDMUND from his youth
To squabbles and to fighting,
And scenes of war and desp'rate deeds,
He always took delight in.

But not that savage kind of war,
My hearers may suppose,
For EDMUND never got a scar,
Nor risk'd a bloody nose.

Far diff'rent arms did he employ
Than those our soldiers wield,
His dagger was an argument,
And sophistry his shield.

Reasons, like red-hot balls he threw;
With EDMUND none could cope,
But in a metaphor was slain,
Or perish'd by a trope.

Thus many a year this hero fought,
His fame still rising higher,
Till age at length crept slowly on,
And damp'd his martial fire.

As candles give a brighter blaze
Just ere their wick be done,
So EDMUND plann'd some mighty deed
Before his course was run.

As on his bed one morn he lay,
On future glory musing,
An angel form before him glanc'd,
Rich odours round diffusing.

Enthron'd between two diamond eyes,
 Sat love, and joy, and mirth,
 And glitt'ring like the morning star,
 She scarcely touch'd the earth.

Tumultuous passions thro' his frame
 In wild disorder ran;
 For who unmov'd such charms can see.
 Is more—or less—than man.

And thus she rais'd her gentle voice,
 And wav'd her lily hand,
 A wretch forlorn, O EDMUND! hear,
 From Gallia's neighb'ring land—

From Gallia's land to thee I fly,
 O vindicate my cause,
 O free me from the hated bonds
 Of barb'rous modern laws.

So shalt thou, EDMUND, with me share
 The plenitude of bliss,
 And, as an earnest, I bestow
 This soft and melting kiss.

Prick'd by the heav'nly temper'd steel,
 As once old Satan rose,
 So EDMUND started from his bed,
 And threw off all the clothes.

Scar'd at the view, the vision fled,
 For much unus'd was she,
 Such sights as EDMUND's shrivel'd skin,
 And spindle limbs to see.

And now the knight his armour took,
 And seiz'd his pond'rous spear,
 And oft, by way of exercise,
 Made pushes at the air.

His corslet next he buckled on,
 His helm so bright to see,
 And thus accoutred, out he rush'd,
 Full arm'd in cap-a-pee.

O had you seen the strange surprise,
 O had you heard the rout,
 When first in this most fierce disguise,
 The hero ventur'd out!

Some thought old Hamlet's buckram ghost
 Had rose in evil hour;
 Whilst others judg'd the jointed mail
 Had walk'd from out the tower.

But EDMUND soon convinc'd them all
 That on his legs he stood,
 And that his arm, tho' chill'd with age,
 Was yet of flesh and blood.

Full tilt he ran at all he met,
 And round he dealt his knocks,
 Till with a backward stroke at last,
 He hit poor CHARLEY FOX.

Now CHARLEY was, of all his friends,
 The warmest friend he had;
 So when he felt this graceless blow,
 He deem'd the man was mad.

With grief his gen'rous bosom rose,
 A grief too great to hide;
 And as the stroke was somewhat hard,
 He sat him down and cry'd.

But not a whit did EDMUND feel,
 For at his friend he flew,
 Resolv'd before the neighbours round
 To beat him black and blue.

Then CHARLES indignant started up,
 The meagre form he took;
 And with a giant's awful grasp,
 His rusty armour shook.

O have ye seen a mastiff strong,
 A shivering lap-dog tear?
 Then may you judge how EDMUND did
 When claw'd by CHARLES appear.

But yet his gauntlet down he threw,
 In beauty's cause to fight,
 And dar'd all Christendom to prove
 His courage and his might.

And wild he roam'd the country round,
 And angry scours the streets,
 And tweaks the nose, or kicks the breach
 Of ev'ry whig he meets.

The neighbours first were all surpris'd,
 Then sorry as he past,
 Then laugh'd his antic freaks to see,
 But angry grew at last.

And lo! an Amazon stept out,
 One WOLSTONECRAFT her name,
 Resolv'd to stop his mad career,
 Whatever chance became.

An oaken sapling in her hands
 Full on the foe she fell,
 Nor could his coat of rusty steel
 Her vig'rous strokes repel.

When, strange to see! her cong'ring staff,
 Returning leaves o'erspread,
 Of which a verdant wreath was wove,
 And bound around her head.

But heavier ills on EDMUND wait,
 He seeks to 'scape in vain,
 For out there rush'd a fiercer foe,
 Whose dreaded name was PAINÉ.

A club he bore, whose parent tree
 In western climates grows,
 And woe to him whose hapless head
 Its stroke in anger knows.

As he who once, with strength divine,
 Earth's monsters cou'd appall,
 Who gagg'd old triple Cerberus,
 And cleans'd th' Augean stall;

Like him this PAINÉ the world did range,
 Its monsters to subdue,
 And more than Hercules he fought,
 And more than him he slew.

This dreadful foe, when EDMUND saw,
 He felt his fate and sigh'd,
 His head received the thund'ring blow—
 He fainted, gasp'd, and died.

And now his wand'ring spectre walks,
 By night, and eke by day,
 A warning to the thoughtless crew
 That beauty leads astray.

ZIMEO, A TALE.

Continued from p. 31.

“THE great Damel, sovereign of Benin, whose heir I am, sent me, according to the ancient custom of the kingdom, to be educated by the husbandmen of Onebo. I was given in charge to Matomba, the wisest among them, the wisest of men! At the court of my father, his counsel had often prevented evil, and been productive of good. While he was yet young, he retired to that village, in which, for ages, the heirs of the empire have been educated. There Matomba enjoyed all the pleasures that a benign sky, a bountiful soil, and a good conscience can bestow. In the village of Onebo there were no animosities, no idleness, no deceit, no designing priests, no hardness of heart. The young princes had none but the most excellent examples before their eyes. The wise Matomba made me lose those sentiments of pride, and of indolence, that the court and my earlier instructors had inspired me with. I laboured the ground, like my master and his servants; I was instructed in the operations of agriculture, which makes all our riches: I was taught the necessity of being just, a duty incumbent on all men, that they may be able to educate their children, and cultivate their fields in peace; and I was shewn, that princes, like the labourers of Onebo, must be just towards one another, that they and their subjects may live happy and contented.

“My master had a daughter, the young Ellaroe; I loved her, and soon found that my passion was returned. We had both of us preserved our innocence inviolate; I saw no other in the creation but her; she saw no other but me, and we were happy. Her parents turned this

passion to our mutual advantage. I was obedient to every command of Matomba, in the hope of making myself worthy of Ellaroe; and the hope of preserving her place in my heart, made every duty delightful to her. My attainments were all due to her, and her's to me. Five years had we thus spent, with increasing attachment, when I demanded permission of my father to espouse Ellaroe. O how I cherished the thought, that she would be my companion on the throne, and my friend in every period of life!

“ I was expecting the answer of my father, when two merchants of Portugal arrived at Onebo. They brought, for sale, some implements of husbandry, several articles for domestic use and some trifles of dress for women and children. We gave them ivory in exchange, and gold dust. They would have purchased slaves, but none, except criminals, are sold in Benin; and there were none of those in the village of Onebo. I questioned them with regard to the arts and the manners of Europe. I found in your arts many superfluities, and in your manners much contradiction. You know the passion which the blacks have for music and dancing. The Portuguese had many instruments unknown to us; and every evening they played on them the gayest and most enchanting airs. The young people of the village gathered together, and danced around them; and there I danced with Ellaroe. The strangers brought us from their ships the most exquisite wines, with liquors and fruits that were delicious to our taste. They sought our friendship, and we loved them truly. They informed us, one day, that they were now obliged to leave us, and to return to their country: The news affected the whole village, but no one more than Ellaroe. They told us, with tears, the day of their departure; they said they would leave us with less regret, if we would give them

an opportunity to testify their regard, by entertaining us on board their ships. They pressed us to repair to them the next morning, with the young men, and the prettiest girls of the village. Accordingly, conducted by Matomba, and by some old people, for the sake of decency, we set off for the ships.

“Onebo is but five miles from the sea, and we were upon the shore an hour after sun-rise. We saw two vessels at a little distance from each other; they were covered with branches of trees; the sails and the cordage were loaded with flowers. As soon as our friends perceived us, they sounded their instruments, and welcomed us with songs. The concert and the decorations promised a delightful entertainment. The Portuguese came to receive us; they divided our company, and an equal number went on board each ship. Two guns were fired: The concert ceased; we were loaded with irons, and the vessels set sail.

Here Zimeo stopt for a moment:—Then resuming his story:—“Yes, my friends,” said he, “these men, to whom we had been prodigal of our wealth and confidence, carried us away, to sell us with the criminals they had purchased at Benin. I felt at once the misery of Ellaroe, of Matomba, and myself. I loaded the Portuguese with reproaches and threats; I bit my chains, and wished I could die; but a look from Ellaroe changed my purpose. The monsters had not separated me from her. Matomba was in the other vessel.

“Three of our young men, and a young girl, found means to put themselves to death. I exhorted Ellaroe to imitate their example; but the pleasure of loving, and of being beloved, attached her to life. The Portuguese made her believe that they intended for us a lot as happy as we had formerly enjoyed. She hoped, at least, that

we would not be separated, and that she might again find her father.

“ After having, for some days, wept the loss of our liberty, the pleasure of being always together stopped the tears of Ellaroe, and abated my despair.

“ In those moments, when we were not interrupted by the presence of our inhuman masters, Ellaroe would fold me in her arms, and exclaim, Oh, my friend ! let us endeavour to support and encourage one another, and we shall resist all they can do to us. Assured of your love, what have I to complain of ? and what happiness is it that you would purchase at the expence of that which we now enjoy ? These words infused into me extraordinary fortitude ; and I had no fear but one,—that of being separated from Ellaroe.

“ We were more than a month at sea ; there was little wind, and our course was slow ; at last the winds failed us entirely, and it fell a dead calm. For some days the Portuguese gave us no more food than was barely sufficient to preserve us alive.

“ Two negroes, determined on death, refused every species of nourishment, and secretly conveyed to us the bread and dates designed for them. I hid them with care, that they might be employed in preserving the life of Ellaroe.

“ The calm continued ; the sea, without a wave, presented one vast immoveable surface, to which our vessel seemed attached. The air was as still as the sea. The sun and the stars, in their silent course, disturbed not the profound repose that reigned over the face of the deep. Our anxious eyes were continually directed to that uniform and unbounded expanse, terminated only by the heaven's arch, that seemed to inclose us as in a vast tomb. Sometimes we mistook the undulations of light for the

motion of the waters ; but that error was of short duration. Sometimes, as we walked on the deck, we took the resistance of the air for the agitation of a breeze ; but no sooner had we suspended our steps, than the illusion vanished ; and the image of famine recurring, presented itself to our minds with redoubled horror.

“ Our tyrants soon reserved for themselves the provisions that remained, and gave orders that a part of the blacks should be sacrificed as food for the rest. It is impossible to say, whether this order, so worthy of the men of your race, or the manner in which it was received, affected me most. I read, on every face, a greedy satisfaction, a dismal terror, a savage hope. I saw those unfortunate companions of my slavery, observe one another with voracious attention, and the eyes of tigers.

“ Two young girls of the village of Onebo, who had suffered most by the famine, were the first victims. The cries of these unhappy wretches still resound in my ears ; and I see the tears streaming from the eyes of their famished companions, as they devoured the horrid repast.

“ The little provisions which I had concealed from the observation of our tyrants, supported Ellaroe and myself, so that we were sure of not being destined to the sacrifice. I still had dates, and we threw into the sea, without being observed, the horrid morsels that were offered to us.

“ The calm continuing, despondency began to seize even our tyrants ; they became remiss in their attention to us ; they observed us slightly, and we were under little restraint. One evening, when they retired, they left me on deck with Ellaroe. When she perceived we were alone, she threw her arms round me, and I pressed her with rapture in mine. Her eyes beamed with an unusual expression of sensibility and tenderness. I had never in her presence experi-

ced such ardour, such emotion, such palpitation, as at that moment. Long we remained thus infolded in one another's arms, unable to speak. "O thou!" said I at last, "whom I had chosen to be my companion on a throne, thou shalt at least be my companion in death." "Ah, Zimeo!" said she, "perhaps the great Orissa will preserve our lives, and I shall be thy wife." "Ellaroe," I replied, "had not these monsters by treachery prevailed, Damel would have chosen thee for my wife, as thy father had chosen me for thy husband. My beloved Ellaroe, do ye still depend upon the authority of Damel, and shall we now wait for orders that we can never receive? No, no, far from our parents, torn from our country, our obedience is now due only to our hearts." "O, Zimeo!" cried she, bedewing my face with her tears. "Ellaroe," said I, "if you weep in a moment like this, you love not as I do." "Ah!" replied she, "observe, by the light of the moon, this unchangeable ocean; throw your eyes on these immoveable sails; behold on the deck, the traces of the blood of my two friends; consider the little that remains of our dates, then—O Zimeo! be but my husband, and I shall be contented!"

"So saying, she redoubled her caresses. We swore, in presence of the great Orissa, to be united, whatever should be our destiny; and we gave ourselves up to numberless pleasures, which we had never before experienced. In the enjoyment of these, we forgot our slavery; the thoughts of impending death, the loss of empire, the hope of vengeance, all were forgotten, and we were sensible to nothing but the blandishments of love. At last, however, the sweet delirium ceased; we found ourselves deserted by every flattering illusion, and left in our former state; truth appeared in proportion as our senses regained their tranquillity; our souls began to suffer unusual oppressions; weigh-

ed down on every side, the calm we experienced was awful and dead, like the stillness of nature around us.

“ I was roused from this despondency by a cry from Ellaroe ; her eyes sparkled with joy ; she made me observe the sails and the cordage agitated by the wind ; we felt the motion of the waves ; a fresh breeze sprung up, that carried the two vessels in three days to Porto Bello.

To be continued.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

A curious discovery.

THERE has been lately discovered as it is said in the library of St Mark at Venice, a collection of hydrographical charts, designed in the year 1436, accompanied with a manuscript description of the voyages of *Marin Sanudo*, a celebrated Venetian navigator, who lived at the end of the thirteenth, and beginning of the fourteenth century, which prove, it is said, in the most unequivocal manner, not only that the seas of Africa and India were known by the Venetians, long before the discoveries of the Portuguese, but also that the Antilles, Hudson's bay, and Newfoundland, had been discovered and frequented by their navigators, more than a century before the age of Christopher Columbus.

This information was communicated to the public in a memoir concerning Italy, read at a general meeting of the Literary Society of Valence in Dauphigné, in France, on the 26th of August last, by a *M. Naillac*. No account has yet reached us of the proofs by which he has established the authenticity of these manuscripts. In this age of literary forgeries, it will be necessary to bring very unequivocal evidence of the authenticity of these produc-

tions, before a tale so little probable, will be believed by the public. The intercourse between Venice and all the countries of Europe, before the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope by the Portuguese, was very great, and Columbus employed a great many years soliciting the different courts of Europe, before he could get one of them to listen to the very improbable tale, as it was then thought, of the possibility of reaching land by sailing westward in the Atlantic ocean. If the Antilles had been frequented by the Venetians before that time, would this have been accounted a wonderful discovery, as it certainly was by all Europe at that time? This, and many other obvious considerations, will induce thinking men to hear this tale with diffidence.

At the same time, it is much to be wished that the potentates of every country in Europe, instead of exerting their utmost efforts in extending their dominions, and disturbing the tranquillity of their neighbours, would, in imitation of the prince of Denmark, turn their attention to domestic improvements, and literary pursuits; and instead of burying whole masses of literary performances, in dungeons where no person can have access to them, would cause the nature of those treasures they possess be fully investigated, and publish a *catalogue raisonnée* of the whole, that literary men might thus be directed in their researches, and be enabled to bring to light whatever was useful in these libraries. For although it is not probable that many discoveries of the nature of that which is here announced, will be made, there is great reason to believe that many of the lost writings of the ancients, might thus be brought to light.

MR ASTORE, advocate in Naples, known in the republic of letters by a profound work, published by him on the

philosophy of Eloquence, has lately published the first volume of a very interesting work, entitled *la guida scientifica*, or a guide for studying the sciences, which is to be followed by four other volumes, to complete the work, of which great expectations are formed by the learned in Italy.

In the first volume he explains the truth of the Christian religion, the errors of Paganism, and the uncertainty of human reason when abandoned to itself.

The second volume is to contain the astronomico-physical history of the celestial bodies,—cosmography,—the natural history of the earth,—the physical geography of the globe,—physics, general and particular, with the natural history of terrestrial bodies,—of the air,—the atmosphere, and the phenomena observed in them.

The third volume will contain the theory of the earth, and terrestrial substances. Every thing that respects the natural history of the earth, of animals, vegetables, and minerals.

The fourth will be appropriated to geography, ancient and modern.

And the fifth will contain the physical history of man,—a sketch of the sciences and intellectual discoveries of man,—and a history of the progress of the social state.

The following passages, translated from the part of this work already published, will probably give the reader a favourable opinion of this author's manner of thinking.

"All studies ought to be so directed, as not to load the memory, but to enlighten the understanding.

"We ought to search for truth, and not to follow systems.

"For nature, ages are moments,—and for man, moments are ages.

"The philosopher ought to be the enemy of hypotheses and systems,—the friend of observations, experience, and sound reasoning.

"In every science, as in the disk of the planets, there are luminous parts, parts that are less lucid, and parts that are obscure.

"One ought to read little, observe and meditate a great deal, and read more in the book of nature, than in the books of men, which often betray us into error.

"If in many things modern philosophers have surpassed the ancients, they have also been, in a good many things, surpassed by these last; and in a great many things the obscurity of modern philosophy is equal to that of the ancient.

"Whoever studies only with a view to make money, is never, or very rarely, in a situation either to make himself better, to discover the truth himself, or to communicate it to others.

"The riches of the understanding are much preferable to the greatest pecuniary wealth."

At the general meeting of the academy of Dijon, held the 28th of August last, *M. Grosart* read a memoir on the means of making instruments of the elastic gum from the bottles of it which come from the Brazils.

Mr Grosart, after regretting, as we have done, vol. ii. that the tree which affords the caoutchouc, grows at too great a distance from Europe, to admit of the juice being brought hither in its fluid state, sets himself to discover if it be possible to convert the dried bottles of it to useful purposes. The dissolving the caoutchouc, by means of æther, he considers, justly, to be too expensive a process for ordinary purposes, and the softening of it by means of essential oils, is not only objectionable on account of the expence, but also to the inconvenience that results from their

not drying properly. Both of these processes, therefore, he rejects.

After many trials, he thinks he has at length discovered an easy and cheap method of making catheters, and similar tubes, of this elastic gum in Europe. It has been remarked, that if shreds of these bottles fresh cut down, be pressed very close upon each other, they may be made to adhere so closely as to appear one piece. This operation is facilitated if the caoutchouc be softened in warm water. Upon this principle he thus proceeds: After having provided a mould of a proper size for the open of the tube intended, he slices down the caoutchouc into thin shreds, puts these into boiling water; after they have remained there for some time, to soften, he takes out these shreds, and rolls them tightly on the mould, taking care to make the edges overlap each other; one shred is applied after another, till the mould is all covered to the thickness wanted, then a ribbon is bound as tightly as possible over the whole, and above that it is still more closely bound by a tire of packthread, laid close to each other over the whole surface. In this state it is allowed to remain for some days, when the packthread is unbound, and the ribbon taken off. The mould may then be easily drawn out after dipping it a few minutes in hot water, and the tube is formed.

How much more easy would it be, however, to make a variety of uses of this substance, could the juice be obtained in its fluid state in Britain! and this it easily could be, were it reared in our new settlement of Sierra Leona, on the coast of Africa, which is not a voyage of a month from Britain. What a valuable acquisition would a cargo of the seeds of the caoutchouc tree be to this new colony! Is not this an object deserving the attention of the Sierra Leona directors?

 ANECDOTE.

 SIR, *For the Bee.*

THE following anecdote is much in the spirit of that which was lately given by your facetious correspondent J. G.

About the year 1750, Mr Sim was minister at Glasg, in Banff-shire, and had, as a parishioner, the late much respected Mr Gordon of Auchmull, who had entertained a long and inveterate grudge at the honest parson. Mr Sim got or *procured* a call to the neighbouring parish of Mortlich, and, as usual, preached a farewell sermon, which Mr Gordon did not honour with his attendance; but a third person extolling the discourse to the skies, and lamenting Mr Gordon's absence, the latter replied only by asking the text; and being told, Acts xx. 22. *And I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there.*—"Ah! d—l curse him! Weel kens he that the stipend of Mortlich is better than the stipend of Glasg."

 TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE very flattering letter and communication of *Misobrontes* are received. Perhaps the Editor will best act up to the character this correspondent has been pleased to give him, by deferring to publish his animadversions till the whole of the observations he criticises are finished. He thinks, too, the writer will be thankful for being allowed time to revise his piece coolly, before he thinks of laying it before the Public. When a person's feelings are warmly excited, he does not always say what he himself on second thoughts would deem the best. From these considerations the publication of this critique shall be deferred.

An *Old Correspondent* will observe that his remarks have been in some measure anticipated. After the whole that occurs on the subject of his paper is published, his observations will be more *apropos*. The epitaph he has been so kind as transcribe, has been sent from different quarters, and has been often published;—so often, indeed, that it could be new to few of our readers.

The verses by a *Friend to Merit*, are safely come to hand. If the writer does not forbid it, they will be printed with a few omissions, so as to render it shorter for this Miscellany.

The very beautiful original letters and verses of Thomson, are received; and several other performances, which shall be acknowledged in our next.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21. 1792.

ACCOUNT OF A VOYAGE TO THE HEBRIDES, BY A COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH FISHERY SOCIETY, IN THE YEAR 1787.

The attention of the public having been frequently of late years directed towards the important object of the fisheries on the western coasts of Scotland, it is not doubted, but our readers will be pleased with a performance that tends to throw light on this very interesting subject. In this persuasion, the Editor is happy to be able to present his readers with the following remarks, with which he has been kindly favoured, by a public spirited gentleman, to whom Scotland lies under great obligations, whose name will be revered in future ages by all who study the history of this country.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

ON perusing my memorandums, I find a short journal among them of a tour made to the Hebrides by a committee of the directors of the fishery society, in the year 1787. The object of that committee was for the purpose of chusing proper stations for some new towns, which the society intended to erect, in the most advantageous situations for the fishery; and for the general commerce of the kingdom. I know

not if those meagre memorandums will afford your readers much entertainment ; but your inserting them in your Bee, may serve to perpetuate the memory of an expedition which does great honour to the directors of the society of British fisheries. That it will prove ultimately beneficial to that neglected part of the kingdom, can hardly be doubted, since some persons of high rank, and distinguished abilities, have thereby been eye witnesses of the neglected state of that country, and of its capability of receiving great improvement by the joint efforts of parliament, the proprietors, and the fishery society. I need not tell you, Sir, that the regions surveyed by the committee are the principal seat of the emigrations which have for these last twenty years taken place to a destructive extent in Scotland ; and that the attention of the public may perhaps be thus awakened to discover the causes, and to administer a cure for this great political distemper.

The society having thought it expedient to have the western coasts of Scotland surveyed and inspected by a committee of their own members, the duke of Argill president, lord Breadalbane vice president, Sir Adam Ferguson, J. H. Mackenzie of Seaforth, esq; Isaac Hawkins Brown, esq; Henry Beaufoy, and George Dempster, esqrs; undertook this expedition. Mr Beaufoy's time not admitting of his accompanying the other members by sea, made a journey by land from London, and visited Lochbroom and Gareloch, and some other parts of the western coasts. He was attended by a surveyor, and had a plan made of a town at Ulapole in Lochbroom, which is now

actually carrying into execution, on a lot of twelve or fourteen thousand acres of land, obtained on easy terms from the late lord Macleod. It is to be hoped this public spirited gentleman will one day favour the public with his observations, during this interesting tour. I am, Sir,

Yours,

PISCATOR.

My memorandums begin June 27th, 1787. The duke of Argill, lord Breadalbane, the honourable Mr Campbell his lordship's brother, Sir Adam Ferguson, Mr Brown, and Mr Dempster, together with Mr Thorkelin, an Icelandic gentleman of great learning, and professor of antiquities, and keeper of the public archives at Copenhagen in Denmark, and lieutenant John Pierce of the navy, a very ingenious navigator and draftsman, left Inverary and reached that night Dalmaly in Glenorchy. 28th, They reached Oban, where they were joined by J. H. Mackenzie, esq; of Seaforth, in his yacht, a beautiful and commodious vessel. Here they also found waiting for them one of the Custom-house cutters, commanded by captain Campbell of Campbelton, who had been appointed by the lords of the Treasury to attend the committee; along with captain Campbell, was also Mr Mactavish of Campbelton. Lord Breadalbane also hired for the expedition a vessel belonging to Stromness, in the Orkneys, the hold of which was fitted up into a cabin, under the direction of lieutenant Pierce, and proved a very useful tender during the course of the voyage.

29th, Sailed from Oban, wind fair, S. W. thermometer at eight o'clock A. M. at Oban 55. About two o'clock reached the bay of Arras in the isle of Mull, where they were joined by Mr Maclean of Coll, in a handsome decked vessel, by Airds, Kingairloch, Drimnin, and the Baillie of Tyree in their respective boats; dined that day in the sound of Mull on board Seaforth's yacht. The party were, besides the gentlemen from Oban, Coll, Lochbury, Drimnin, Kingairloch, Lochallyn, captain Hamond. Maclean, captain L. Maclean isle of Muik, Kingairloch's brother, Mr Colin Maclean, captain Wilson, Dr Hume, Mr Agnew, Mr Maclean of Turloisk, Airds *junior*, both the Mr Stewarts and Mr Stevensons of Oban.

The day was fine. The boats of the Highland gentlemen had colours flying, a bag-piper in the bow of each, and rowers in uniform liveries, and made a fine appearance. His majesty's health, success to the fisheries, and many other loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk, accompanied with a discharge of swivel guns, with which all the vessels, and some of the boats, were provided. The company all in great spirits. A gayer scene could not be seen.

The committee slept that night on shore at Mr Stewart's of Arras, where the sound of Mull forms a fine bay. 30th June, weather fine, wind fair, the duke of Argill and some of the party rode along the banks of the sound of Mull to Tobermory; the rest went by water.

A plentiful dinner was provided by the duke of Argill at Tobermory, for the same company as yesterday; dined under a tent, founded the New Town.

under every favourable auspice. It was named *British Harbour* by the duke of Argill. Its ancient name of Tobermory will probably be its prevalent name.—Fine all day.—Returned by water and passed the night at Arras.

July 1st dined at Arras; while there, several boards were held, all the committee present. A large part of Tobermory farm was purchased for the society from Mr Campbell of Knock. It consists of five hundred acres round the harbour. Terms were the present rent L. 53 10s. and L. 500 down. The duke of Argill sold the society still a better bargain, having only asked the present rent of about L. 30 or L. 40 for fifteen hundred acres, so that the society is now in possession of two thousand and odd acres, round British Harbour, for L. 90 a-year, and L. 500 paid in money. One of the party said he would leave directions for publishing in the newspaper, fifty years hence, the terms of this purchase, and would appeal to posterity for a confirmation of his opinion, in which he was singular, that the bargain made with Knock is a cheap one, for in less time than fifty years the land round Tobermory would yield the society L. 2000 a-year.

The board directed Tobermory to be surveyed again, the town and roads to be laid out anew, accurate measures to be taken of the necessary embankments, quay, warehouses and other storehouses; with a view to advertise for their execution by public contract.

To be continued.

OBSERVATIONS ON WATSON'S HISTORY.

Continued from vol. vii. p. 169.

THE stile and narration of this history deserve much praise ; it is easy, flowing, and natural, always correct, and well adapted to the different subjects which come under review ; it possesses, however, more of the dignified simplicity and strength of the philosopher, than the flowery embellishments of the poet. Watson rests none of his merit upon external ornament ; he is chiefly anxious to relate facts, clearly and completely, in their due proportion and proper connection, and to please, and interest, rather by what he has to tell, than by any adventitious colouring. But though he does not seem ambitious to decorate his narration with beauty and sublimity of diction, we feel no want of it ; we meet with nothing harsh, redundant, or inelegant ; we can on no occasion say, that he has not done justice to his subject, that his conceptions are ever inadequate, his views deficient, or his description feeble. His aim is never solely to please the ear, but always to fill and satisfy the mind. Very different from the manly modesty of this author, is the practice of many modern writers, who are always attempting to draw our attention from the subject to themselves and their manner of describing it ; who are ever on the watch to catch at an elegant phrase ; and who wish, one would think, to 'cover the deformity or poverty of their thoughts, with the gaudy ornaments of stile and expression. In a nar-

ration of facts there should be nothing rugged, abrupt, or obscure ; simplicity, perspicuity, and correctness, are chiefly to be studied ; it seldom admits of a highly decorated stile. A perpetual succession of musical sounds, and a great attention to the regular swell and cadence of periods, serve rather to embarrass and interrupt, than illustrate the subjects of history. In the great models of antiquity, the utmost simplicity reigns ; Herodotus, Xenophon, Cæsar, and Livy, are remarkably chaste in this respect. Their easy and natural composition seems to have been closely imitated by the author of this history, which is elegant without affectation, and perspicuous without being diffuse.

The reign of Philip II. is crowded with great and important transactions. The scenes are various and uncommon. It is one continued train of active exertions ; many subjects of wonder occur, many of pity, love, and abhorrence. In order to do justice to such an extensive field, and to produce suitable sensations, our author makes use of no rhetorical artifices ; he does not set himself, by a laboured description, to elevate the imagination, and by many pathetic expostulations to rouse indignation, or to excite pity ; he does not attempt, like some puerile writers, to raise to the highest pitch of admiration, or melt with the utmost extremity of pitiful distress ; such overstrained efforts never gain their end. We always read them with distrust, and instead of brightening the object, as they intend, serve rather to cast a mist over it, and often put it wholly out of view. But Watson after

the manner of the above celebrated ancients, has no unmeaning flashes of oratory, no studied research after novelty of expression, or measured combinations of words; he gives a simple recital of facts, in language pure and philosophical, and addresses himself to the passions, wholly through the medium of the understanding; he is content with presenting clear and satisfactory views of interesting scenes, and allows them to make their way to the heart by their native merit. The unadorned picture which he exhibits of the miseries of the Netherlands, is certainly far more affecting than though he had employed all the refining arts of rhetorical embellishments. This indeed is one of the great excellencies of Watson, that we are never amused with words instead of things; he never calls our minds from the proper business of the work, to reflections of his own that are unnecessary, and which are in many writers no more than an affected parade of unmeaning ingenuity. The whole series of events lie full and clear before us as they actually existed; nothing is heightened beyond truth by the false colourings of imagination, nor does any thing appear without suitable dignity. The principal circumstances are selected with judgement, and displayed with the utmost perspicuity and order. On no occasion are we at a loss to apprehend his meaning, or follow the thread of his narration; we are never fatigued with minute attentions, nor distracted with a multiplicity of things at once.

In relating those complicated arrangements of battles, sieges and encampments which modern improvements have introduced into the military art, he

shews an uncommonly clear and capacious mind, the reader always easily imagines himself to be upon the spot; indeed throughout the whole we are continually upon the scene of action, we are always so much ingrossed with what is going on, that we never think of the composition, or the historian himself. In describing engagements, he shews much ability and address. The number and disposition of the combatants, their peculiar situation, their advantages and disadvantages, are all represented as in a map before us. The action itself is always highly interesting; our solicitude about the issue is for a while in suspense, the tumult gradually thickens, the vigilance, valour and sagacity of the leaders, are well painted; and the causes of victory or defeat are accounted for in a satisfactory manner.

We shall here give a short specimen of our author's skill in managing a scene of this kind; it is an assault of the prince of Parma upon Maestricht, of which de Herle and Tapin were governors. The most striking circumstances are well chosen, the action is naturally developed, and the whole description bold, concise, and masterly.

“ In order to weaken the garrison by dividing it, the prince of Parma resolved to make an assault at each of the two breaches at the same time. His troops advanced in the face of the enemy's cannon with the utmost intrepidity, the besieged stood undismayed till they approached, and nothing could exceed the fury with which both parties began the combat. Their fire arms soon ceased to be of use to them; for they came immediately to close fight, in which they could

employ only their pikes and their swords. At one of the breaches de Herle, and in the other Tapin, gave the most splendid proofs of capacity and valour. The assailants, enraged at meeting with such obstinate resistance from an enemy so much inferior in number, exerted their utmost vigour to overcome them; the action was furious and desperate. The ruins of the wall, and the ground on both sides were strewed with dead, and dying; stones hurled down from the bulwarks, and artificial fires which the besieged launched among the assailants, increased the confusion. Those fires happened to lay hold of the barrels of gunpowder, which stood near for the use of the combatants; the explosion was terrible, and many on both sides perished by this fatal accident. The air resounded with cries, and shrieks, and groans. The earth was covered with mangled carcases; yet those who survived still maintained their ground with the same unconquerable obstinacy as before, and, from the horrid scene which lay around them, seemed only to derive fresh rage and fury. The prince of Parma gave orders, at last, with much reluctance, for sounding a retreat. The resolution and fortitude of the besieged he perceived were not to be overcome."

To describe characters is one of the most difficult tasks which belong to an historian, and in the performance of which he is most liable to fail. To estimate the powers of the mind, and to attend to the natural and acquired biases of the heart, is a much nicer study, and requires far more genius and discernment, than a relation of external occurrences,

The difficulties are so great and so various, that we do not wonder so few have succeeded in this department of history : Much penetration is necessary to discriminate the natural character of the hero, from that political one which his particular situation obliges him to assume ; they are often so much blended, that the historian is at a loss to discern any character at all. An amiable partiality to virtue and heroism, misleads many, while still more have a prejudice for certain characters, on account of their own pre-conceived notions, with regard to a particular system of laws, morality, and religion, and some in short have a partiality for a favourite character without any reason. That profound and manly simplicity of investigation, which distinguishes our author on all occasions, is also very apparent here. His characters are consistent, intelligible, and complete. He is not indeed ambitious to delight the imagination, merely by painting them in vivid and brilliant colours, he does not wish to surprise his readers by strained efforts of ingenuity, and to confound them with a dazzling picture ; but rather to exhibit the sober and faithful lineaments of truth. The character of Philip, himself, is delineated with a masterly pencil ; his actions proceed in an uniform tenor of cruelty, dissimulation, and despotism ; and the simple detail of them which is given in this history, makes a more forcible impression on the mind, than though they had been loaded with the most violent epithets, and the most aggravated invectives ; his character is not of a general and undetermined kind, it is always marked with certain pecu-

liar traits, which make it clearly distinguishable from that of Alva and his associates, though walking in the same steps, and guided by the same maxims. An ordinary writer knows no distinction but that of good or bad, great or little ; and it is one of the highest efforts of genius to mould the general properties of human nature into form or shape, so as to make a distinct figure in the imagination. The whole history of Philip II. teems with distinct and natural characters ; the ferocity, pride, and military abilities of Alva are strongly expressed ; the timid moderation of Requesens, the turbulent activity of Don John, and the dignified courage of the prince of Parma. The characters of the prince of Orange and his illustrious son Maurice, are the most amiable and interesting in the whole work, their singular virtues and abilities, and the qualities in which they differed, are beautifully displayed, and supported with great dignity. The important period of this history is crowded with heroes, patriots, and politicians, who all make their appearance before us in their proper characters as on a stage, and the bold and difficult enterprises in which they are engaged, call forth every exertion of body and mind, and give occasion to a very diversified display of human nature. The different situations in which they are placed, serve the more to heighten the characters, and interest us in their actions. Philip on the one hand, with his generals, all actuated by the same dark spirit of despotism, and driven on to the most barbarous deeds, are naturally objects of abhorrence. But when contrasted with the prince of Orange, and his generous

band, all inspired with the noble flame of liberty, and exhibiting in their whole conduct the greatest integrity and heroism, we have a double aversion to the one party, and our affection towards the other is greatly increased.

On every subject our author maintains all the grave and philosophical dignity of an historian; he admits nothing quaint or witty, light or trivial on any occasion. His accurate and extensive acquaintance with what he relates, his candour and regard to truth cannot well be surpassed; his sentiments are manly and independent, but modest and unassuming. The morality which runs through this work is pure, delicate, and chaste, unaffected, and without ostentation.

Though Watson cannot be called a sprightly or volatile writer, he is never dull, drawling, or languid; a chaste philosophical animation is always preserved, a vivacity tempered by the serious dignity of an historian. If he does not dazzle us with flame, in recompence we have no smoke. If he does not soar to high flights, we have the satisfaction to find that he is never out of view. If he does not gild over his scenes with the splendour of poetical description, we are secure of not being upon enchanted ground; we are always where we ought to be, among subjects of truth and nature. He does not, in short, like some writers, injudiciously anticipate the feelings of his readers, by a perpetual rapture of enthusiasm; his aim is simply to afford, in the most striking manner, a proper subject for such sensations, and leave them to be affected with it according to the several de-

grees of constitutional warmth, and sensibility of imagination.

But the best proof of this writer's merit is, that he never fails to delight and to interest; there is a charm diffused over the whole which is easier felt than described; and it may be safely affirmed, that he who has the power of pleasing his readers, and engaging their affections, has retained the highest praise of an author; for without this power the most laborious attention to the best plan, and the greatest extent of knowledge, is vain and useless. PHILO.

DISQUISITIONS ON THE USES OF THE DRY-STONE BUILDINGS, CALLED DHUNES IN SCOTLAND.

Continued from p. 61.

THE ingenious Mr King, who has so successfully explained the nature of the Anglo Saxon and Norman forts, vulgarly called KEEPS, has inadvertently dropped some expressions that may tend to mislead his readers, which, as coming from *him*, require to be examined with more attention than would otherwise have been thought necessary. He not only believes that the dhunes in Scotland have been undoubtedly erected as places of defence, but he even insinuates that they have been the originals from whence the Anglo Saxons borrowed the first idea of those round fortified towers which they called *keeps*; both which opinions it will not be difficult to prove are equally groundless. With this view it will be necessary,

In the first place, to advert that few structures of the kind here treated of, are found in the southern parts of Scotland, to which part of Scotland alone the English, in the time of the Anglo Saxons and Normans, ever had any access; the dhunes are chiefly to be found in the northern remote parts of the island, where no Englishman ever could have had an opportunity of seeing them. Hence it is not at all probable that they could have formed an idea of imitating them. From this circumstance we may naturally infer,

In the second place, that had these structures been really intended as fortifications, they would naturally have been more frequent on the borders between England and Scotland, than any where else in the island, as the inhabitants of that district were more exposed to predatory invasion than any others; but not only none of those are there found, but no building has ever been discovered in England that bears a resemblance to these in any respect, except merely the circularity of their external form. Indeed this is so obvious, that nothing but a perfect ignorance of the peculiar construction of the dhunes could ever have induced Mr King to have adopted the opinion above cited. Our readers being already in some measure acquainted with the peculiar structure of the *dhunes*, to satisfy them of the truth of this position, it will be only necessary to give them a general idea of the structure of the English *keeps*.

Anglo Saxon keeps and dhunes compared.

AN Anglo Saxon keep is always a *cylindrical* (not a *conical*) tower, rising from the apex of a conical hill of earth, which in most cases appears to have been

artificial. The basis of the tower is laid deep within the bowels of the mount, and in the center of the whole is placed the well, which has always been sunk deep enough to furnish an abundant supply of water for the use of the garrison, and those who might be besieged within the keep. This high tower was always divided into stories, one above the other, each story consisting of one apartment, which was lighted by windows in the wall, that were so constructed as to admit the light freely, but not to allow any missile weapon thrown *from below* to penetrate into the apartment through these apertures, while they at the same time admitted of weapons being discharged through them from within for the annoyance of the assailants. These particulars are beautifully illustrated in Mr King's masterly essay on the subject. Each of these apartments too is furnished with its fire place, and a chimney leading from it to the top of the building, in the heart of the wall; and in most of the stories some cavities have been made in the wall, to serve as cupboards or presses for the conveniency of the inhabitants. All the floors of these apartments, above the surface of the mount at least, were made of wood, not vaulted; and in every one of them is to be seen, till this day, holes in the wall fitted to receive the ends of beams for supporting the floors of the different apartments.

The entry to the *keep* was always by one narrow door, on a level *with the top of the conical mound*; to which there was no access but by one narrow flight of steps, ascending in a straight line from the bottom

of the mount. The top of the tower was formed into battlements, over which stones and missile weapons could be thrown upon the assailants, when they attempted to come near the foundation of the building, either with an intention to force the entry or to undermine the structure, without exposing the besieged to the smallest danger. The access to the different apartments within the *keep*, was by means of a stair in the heart of the wall, exactly similar to the stairs in the *dhunes*, if you take into view nothing more than the ascent of one flight of steps, but agreeing in no other particular; for the stair in the *keep* always terminated in a door leading into the circular apartment that occupied the whole internal area of the structure, from which also there was another door, entering into the bottom of the flight of steps, ascending to the next floor; whereas the stair in the *dhune* had no door that opened into the internal area at all, except at the bottom only; each flight of steps terminating in a gallery that ran quite round the building, till it reached the second flight of steps, and so on, as has been illustrated in our last number, page 55; but no mark of any such galleries has ever been discovered in the keeps; neither is there ever found in the *dhunes*, any mark of holes for receiving the ends of beams of wood to support the floors.

In the *keeps* also, the under part of the tower, which was deep within the bowels of the mount, and consequently dark, was appropriated for containing stores to the garrison, and, as the well was at the bottom of the whole, and directly in the center of the

building, they contrived to leave a circular opening in the centre of each floor that was closed by a moveable cover, through which water and stores could easily be raised, by means of a pulley, to any story where it might be wanted.

We have in Scotland many circular towers of more modern date, built as those of England were, with stone and lime, and upon the same general principles with them; but these have never here been confounded with the *dbunes*. There were no less than five of these circular towers in the castle of Kildrummie, alone; and there is the remains of one, of very large dimensions, still to be seen in the castle of Rothsay in Bute; but these are exceedingly different from the *dbunes*, and have evidently been constructed for very different purposes.

On the whole, it seems to me perfectly clear, from these considerations, that the kind of *dbunes* here specified*, never were intended to serve as places of defence, and, therefore, they must have been appropriated to some other purpose.

3. *Habitations of princes.*

SOME have believed that these structures had been originally employed as the habitation of princes or great men, like my ingenious correspondent Mr Ni-

* It will be shewn in the sequel, that there was another class of circular dry-stone buildings in Scotland, that had probably been employed as strong holds occasionally, which are also called *dbunes*, that have been confounded with those I here describe, which has probably tended very much to mislead the judgement of men on this head. The Scottish reader is, therefore, desired to advert to this circumstance at present; and to suspend his final decision on this head till the whole be before him.

cholson. Many circumstances contribute to render this opinion probable, at first sight, to those who only take a casual, and hasty view of the matter. The huts of all savage nations are of a circular form, and lighted from the top; so are these. This general resemblance catches the attention; and, as these towers are of great magnitude, and must have been reared at a vast expence, it was concluded that they were only huts of a superior kind, that had been erected as the habitations of great men or princes; but, upon a near examination, it will clearly appear that they never could have been appropriated to this use.

In the first place, wherever men are found to be in that state of society where huts of the kind here referred to are employed, their princes, if such you please to call them, are little distinguished from the people, and live in huts similar to the others. Convenience is the first improvement that men, advancing in civilization, try to obtain in their buildings; grandeur and show are long postponed to that. Convenience is indeed almost the only object that uncivilized tribes seem to aim at in their habitations, and they are far advanced in many useful arts before they seem to spend a thought about rendering them either superb or durable. Hence it happens that we meet with so few vestiges of the ruins of the ancient dwellings of uncivilized tribes, throughout all the nations on the globe. In Scotland, in particular, this is known to be remarkably the case; for although the site of the ancient city called Berekonium, be so accurately described by historians, as to leave no

doubt of the place where it once was, yet there is not at present even the mark of a ruin, that could induce any person to believe that ever a number of people had lived together upon that spot. When princes came to build palaces of lasting materials, they were acquainted with many of the conveniencies of life, so that their palaces were, when compared with the ancient huts, as much distinguished by their superior conveniencies as by their superior strength.

But if we examine the *dbunes* with this view, we shall find that all these rules have been entirely reversed. There we shall find a vast pile, that must have been erected at an immense expence, without one single accommodation fitted to render life tolerable, far less comfortable; for it will soon appear, that the poorest hut that has been any where discovered, in any country, would afford a much better shelter against the inclemencies of the weather than one of these supposed palaces ever could have done.

It is to be observed, that all these towers are entirely open at the top, and must evidently ever have been so, as there is not the smallest vestige of any roof having been upon them; nor the most distant probability that there ever were. Indeed the idea of a hut, supposes they must have been open at the top; and if they had not been open there, the people within could have no light, as there is not the smallest opening in any one of them through the wall, but by the door alone; the people within, therefore, must have been in total and perpetual darkness, a state infinitely less agreeable than that of the inhabitant of the meanest hut, who obtains light sufficient for

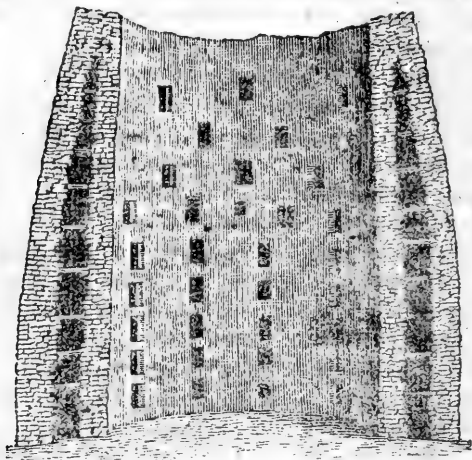
his ordinary purposes, through the hole that he is obliged to leave open for the emission of smoke. *

If then the roof was open, the royal inhabitants must have had some place to shelter themselves from rain and other inclemencies of the weather when they went to rest. And where were they to find these conveniencies? The galleries in the heart of the wall, which some have chosen to call apartments, could not afford that shelter. The walls are of dry-stone, without even a vestige of a little fog to close the crannies, so that there is a continued suction of sifting air through the whole, that would have destroyed any human creature who should have attempted to sleep in them; and though there should have been a fire in the centre of the building, these supposed apartments would have been at such a distance from the fire, as to have derived no sort of benefit from it.

But it is truly ridiculous to hear these galleries called apartments, as the slightest attention to their form and structure will sufficiently demonstrate. The annexed elevation and section exhibiting a view of one of these *dhunes*, will help to give the reader a clearer idea of the internal construction of these galleries than he could obtain by words alone. It is drawn from the observations I made at the eastmost *dhune* in *Glenelg*; and will be found sufficiently accurate, unless, perhaps, in regard to the *number* of the windows and galleries in that tower, and its total height; for these circumstances are taken at random. The general

* The general height of these towers, and their large dimensions, compared with a low hut, would occasion this comparative darkness, had a hole sufficient only for the emission of smoke been left in them.

idea given, is perfectly accurate; for exact particulars, as to dimensions, they are here of no use. I only recollect, in general, that the galleries, at the widest, were less than four feet, and in height from floor to roof did not exceed five feet.



SECTION

Of a dbune, representing a front view of the galleries, and inside of these structures.

The first particular that struck me as a singularity, on examining these galleries, was, that they were not even, or smooth, on the inside, as the wall was both on its convex and concave surface. The stones were there rough and irregular, some of them projecting with sharp corners much farther than others, so as to render it very inconvenient to walk in those galleries, as the sharp projections were in danger of tearing the clothes. The stones seem to have been bedded

firmly in the wall, beginning at the outside of the wall, both on the convex and concave surface, so as to make these surfaces tolerably smooth; the stones having been left to terminate in the cavity of these galleries as chance occasioned. The floors also were ill laid, and so open as to admit of seeing through every seam.

The next remarkable particular that struck me, as a very great singularity, which had never been taken notice of by any one who had described these structures, was, that these galleries grew narrower and narrower, as you ascended upwards, till they closed at the top altogether, as is represented in the elevation; a good many of these galleries, therefore, must have been so narrow as not to have admitted access to any human being; yet still we find openings from within, into these narrow galleries, as well as into those that were wider.

It deserves in the next place to be remarked, that it is impossible to get access from below to a superior story of these galleries by means of the stair, without going entirely round the whole circuit of the building in the gallery; so that if these had been employed as apartments for sleeping in, or for any other purpose, one person going between the top and the bottom, must have displaced every person, or every thing of half the bulk of a man, in every part of the whole. This consideration, alone, shows the striking absurdity of supposing that these galleries had ever been appropriated for the use of man, as apartments for lodging in. But the most decisive proof that these structures never could have been employed as habitations for men of any sort, is still

to be mentioned. No human being could live in such northern climates without making use of fires, almost continually ; and if ever a fire was used in these structures, it must evidently have been lighted in the centre of the circular area. In this case the smoke must have filled the whole internal area, especially if it had been covered in with a roof, as it invariably does every other hut of a similar construction ; and if the area had been constantly filled with smoke, it must not only have been thus rendered totally dark, but the smoke must also have tinged the stones, not only on the concave surface of the building, but also in every part of the galleries in the wall, into which it must have had free access ; but though I looked with the utmost care into every cranny, no vestiges of smoke or soot were discoverable any where. In vain would it be urged that the rain and weather, in the course of several ages, during which these towers have stood unoccupied, might have washed off the effects of the smoke. We have no proof that a stone, once thoroughly so tinged, can ever be washed quite clean, but many proofs that exposure to the weather will not do it in many ages. Here, however, there are many crannies to which no rain has ever had access ; and in the narrow galleries at top, no human art could have been employed ever to wipe away the clods of soot that must have been formed in that situation ; but since not the smallest particle of any thing resembling soot can there be discovered, we must conclude, that fires could not have been there generally employed, and of course that no human being could ever have occupied these as a habitation.

To be continued.

To the Editor of the Bee.

IMITATION OF THE SONNET BY CALDERON, BEE VOL. vii. p. 107.

SEEST thou, Maria, that sweet blushing rose,
 Its op'ning beauties peeping to the view,
 With virgin freshness its young charms disclose,
 Its lips still moisten'd with the morning dew.

See how it gently swelling bursts those bands,
 In which its infant beauties lay conceal'd;
 Nature impels,—it gradually expands,
 And soon will be the glory of the field.

It still with virgin coyness droops its head,
 And, bending, seems to court the leafy shade,
 Afraid of the harsh touch of fingers rude,
 It calls the prickly thorn unto its aid.

The prickly thorn its aid affords in vain,
 Tho' guarded thus it still is not secure:
 No dangers daunt, nor fear, nor toil, nor pain,
 Are minded, when bewitching charms allure.

Yet if by chance this beauteous tempting rose,
 On its own stalk is suffer'd to remain,
 Soon, soon, alas! it breaks—it over-blows,
 Its faded leaves are scatter'd on the plain.

Thus, sweet Maria's budding infant charms,
 Tho' scarcely yet reveal'd, all hearts allure;
 And tho' she them with chilling coyness arms,
 Defended thus, they still are not secure.

And soon shall all those tempting beauties fade,
 And soon shall all their charms be quite forgot,
 Then waste not time, my lovely, glorious maid,
 But deign to grace my lowly rustic cot.

There safe, protected by my circling arms,
 Time unperceiv'd his ravages may make,
 For candour, truth, beneficence are charms,
 That never can Maria's heart forsake.

For the Bee.

A SONG TO THE TUNE OF THE BOW, WOW, WOW.

O TRAFFICKING's an ancient theme, a theme renown'd in story,
And is the subject of the song, which now is laid before you,
That all are traffickers, I'll prove by clearest demonstration,
And trafficking, like righteousness, can well exalt a nation.

Bow wow wow.

First mother Eve all mankind sold, both nations, kindred, people,
And she received, I blush to tell, nought but a golden apple;
Since which all maids for settlements, sell love, and blifs, and ease Sir,
And money! Yes indeed! 'twill buy just any thing you please Sir.

Bow wow wow.

When Adam heard the tale he gave his last *immortal* groan Sir,
Ate of the purchase, still had life, but innocence was gone Sir;
That speculator of a snake barter'd fig leaves for fame Sir,
And left upon the earth, alas! no more but virtue's name Sir.

Bow wow wow.

Man ev'ry other feeling sold, and then there came a flood Sir,
But trafficking unhing'd the chain of kindred and of blood Sir;
For if a *scoundrel* dar'd to dream, they envied one another,
And from great Joseph's days till now, we find man sells his brother.

Bow wow wow.

Then speculation's *blessed* pow'rs were felt in Pharaoh's reign Sir,
And our young merchant ran about to buy up all the grain Sir;
Towns, such as Tyre, rose up from trade, to glory and renown Sir,
But idleness with riches came, and soon they tumbled down Sir.

Bow wow wow.

Great Britain now is rich thro' trade, Oh may administration
Ne'er barter for their private pride the honour of the nation;
And may no partial childish pique e'er so far blind their eyes Sir,
As leave the Scottish bud to feel the pest of an excise Sir.

Bow wow wow.

PHENIX HUNTER.

THE AFRICAN BOY.

" Ah! tell me, little mournful Moor,
" Why still you linger on the shore?
" Haste to your playmates, haste away,
" Nor loiter here with fond delay.
" When morn unveil'd her radiant eye,
" You hail'd me as I wander'd by,
" Returning at th' approach of eve,
" Your meek salute I still receive."

Benign inquirer; thou shalt know,
 Why here my lonesome moments flow :
 'Tis said, thy countrymen (no more
 Like rav'ning sharks that haunt the shore)
 Return to raise, to bless, to cheer,
 And pay Compassion's long arrears;
 'Tis said the num'rous captive train,
 Late bound by the degrading chain,
 Triumphant come with swelling sails,
 'Mid smiling skies and western gales,
 They come with festive heart and glee,
 Their hands unshackled—minds are free;
 They come at mercy's great command,
 To-repossess their native land.

The gales that o'er the ocean stray,
 And chace the waves in gentle play,
 Methinks they whisper as they fly,
 Juellen soon will meet thine eye;
 'Tis this that soothes her little son,
 Blends all his wishes into one.
 Ah! were I clasp'd in her embrace,
 I could forgive her past disgrace;
 Forget the memorable hour,
 She fell a prey to tyrant pow'r;
 Forget her lost distracted air,
 Her sorrowing voice, her kneeling pray'r:
 The suppliant tear that gall'd her cheek,
 And last her agonizing shriek!
 Lock'd in her hair; a ruthless hand
 Trail'd her along the flinty strand;
 A ruffian train, with clamours rude,
 Th'impious spectacle pursu'd;
 Still as she mov'd, in accents wild
 She cry'd aloud "My child! my child!"
 The lofty bark she now ascends,
 With screams of woe the air she rends!
 The vessel les'ning from the shore,
 Her piteous wails I heard no more!
 Now as I stretch'd my last survey,
 Her distant form dissolv'd away.
 That day is past!—I cease to mourn,
 Succeeding joy shall have its turn.
 Beside the hoarse resounding deep,
 A pleasing anxious watch I keep;
 For when the morning clouds shall break
 And darts of day the darkness streak,
 Perchance along the glitt'ring main,
 (Oh! may this hope not throb in vain).
 To meet these long-desiring eyes,
 Juellen and the sun may rise.

ZIMEO, A TALE.

Continued from p. 31.

“ THERE we met Matomba; he bathed me with his tears; he embraced his daughter, and approved of our marriage. Would you believe it, my friends,—the pleasure of rejoining Matomba, the pleasure of being the husband of Ellaroe, the charms of her love, the joy of seeing her safe from such cruel distress, suspended in me all feeling of our misfortunes? I was ready to fall in love with bondage, Ellaroe was happy, and her father seemed reconciled to his fate. Yes, perhaps, I might have pardoned the monsters that had betrayed us; but Ellaroe and her father were sold to an inhabitant of Porto Bello, and I to a man of your nation, who carried slaves to the Antilles.

“ It was then that I felt the extent of my misery; it was then that my natural disposition was changed; it was then I imbibed that passion for revenge, that thirst of blood, at which I myself shudder, when I think of Ellaroe, whose image alone is able to still my rage.

“ When our fate was determined, my wife and her father threw themselves at the feet of the barbarians that separated us; even I prostrated myself before them.—Ineffectual abasement!—they did not even deign to listen to us. As they were preparing to drag me away, my wife, with wildness in her eyes, with outstretched arms, and shrieks that still rend my heart, rushed impetuously to embrace me. I disengaged myself from those who held me; I received Ellaroe in my arms; she infolded me in hers, and instinctively, by a sort of mechanical impulse, we clasped our hands together, and formed a chain round each other. Many cruel hands were employed, with vain efforts, to tear us asunder. I felt that these efforts would, however, soon

prove effectual ; I was determined to rid myself of life ; but how to leave in this dreadful world my dear Ellaroe ! I was about to lose her for ever ; I had every thing to dread ; I had nothing to hope ; my imaginations were desperate ; the tears ran in streams over my face ; I uttered nothing but frantic exclamations, or groans of despair, like the roaring of a lion, exhausted in unequal combat. My hands gradually loosened from the body of Ellaroe, and began to approach her neck. Merciful Orisa ! the whites extricated my wife from my furious embrace. She gave a loud shriek of despair, as we were separated ; I saw her attempt to carry her hands towards her neck, to accomplish my fatal design ; she was prevented ; she took her last look of me. Her eyes, her whole countenance, her attitude, the inarticulate accents that escaped her, all bespoke the extremities of grief and of love.

“ I was dragged on board the vessel of your nation ; I was pinioned, and placed in such a manner as to make any attempt upon my life impossible ; but they could not force me to take any sustenance. My new tyrants at first employed threats, at last they made me suffer torments, which whites alone can invent ; but I resisted all.

“ A negro, born at Benin, who had been a slave for two years with my new master, had compassion on me. He told me that we were going to Jamaica, where I might easily recover my liberty ; he talked to me of the wild negroes, and of the commonwealth they had formed in the center of the island ; he told me that these negroes sometimes went on board English ships, to make depredations on the Spanish islands ; he made me understand, that in one of those cruises, Ellaroe and her father might be rescued. He awakened in my heart the ideas of vengeance and the hopes of love. I consented to live ; but you now see for what. I am already revenged, but I am not satisfied till I regain the idols of my heart. If that cannot be, I renounce the

light of the sun. My friends, take all my riches, and provide me a vessel—”

Here Zimeo was interrupted by the arrival of Francisco, supported by the young negro who had so suddenly retired upon the sight of his prince. No sooner had Zimeo perceived them, than he flew to Francisco. “O, my father! O Matomba!” cried he, “is it you? do I indeed see you again? O Ellaroe!” “She lives,” said Matomba; “she lives, she weeps your misfortunes, she belongs to this family.” “Lead me, lead me,”—“See,” interrupted Matomba, shewing Wilmot’s friend, “there is the man who saved us.” Zimeo embraced by turns, now Matomba, now Wilmot, and now his friend. Then with wild eagerness, “Lead me,” he cried, “to my love.” Marianne, or rather Ellaroe, was approaching; the same negro who had met Matomba had gone in quest of her; she came trembling, lifting her hands and eyes to heaven; and with tears in her eyes, in a faint voice, she could hardly utter, “Zimeo! Zimeo!” She had put her child into the arms of the negro, and after the first transports and embraces were over, she presented the infant to her husband. “Zimeo! behold thy son! for him alone have Matomba and I supported life.” Zimeo took the child, and kissed him a thousand and a thousand times. “He shall not be a slave,” cried he; “the son of my Ellaroe shall not be a slave to the whites.” “But for him” said she, “but for him, I should have quitted this world, in which I could not find the man whom my soul loved. The most tender discourses at last gave place to the sweetest caresses, which were only suspended to bestow these caresses on their child. But soon their gratitude to Wilmot and his friend engrossed them wholly; and surely never did man, not even a negro, express this amiable sentiment so nobly and so well.

Zimeo, being informed that the English troops were on their march, made his retreat in good order. Ellaroe

and Matomba melted into tears on quitting Wilmot. They would willingly have remained his slaves ; they conjured him to follow them to the mountain. He promised to visit them there as soon as the peace should be concluded between the wild negroes and the colony. He kept his word, and went thither often, to contemplate the virtues, the love, and the friendship, of Zimeo, of Matomba, and of Ellaroe.

A HINT TO TRADERS IN WOOD, AND MANUFACTURERS.

NOW that machinery has come so much into use in manufactures, it is of some importance to know how to find wood, that is well calculated for these purposes, and at a moderate expence. At present the only wood that can be used for fine machinery, is mahogany ; but the price of that is so high, as in a great measure to preclude the use of it in large works. The ordinary woods of Europe, however, are so apt to shrink, or warp, or become worm-eaten in a short time, that a machine made of mahogany goes so much truer, and by consequence more sweetly, and at a less expence for a moving power, that it is, perhaps, upon the whole, cheaper to employ that wood than any of them.

I have often thought it strange that our carpenters should not have thought of employing larch wood for these purposes, as this is in all respects preferable to mahogany, and could be procured at less than one-fourth of the price. Larch timber, when cut into thin slices, is less apt to shrink or warp than mahogany. Many of the paintings of Raphael Urban were painted upon larch wood, as we now paint upon canvas ; and these have stood three hundred years without occasioning the smallest crack in the paintings ; a thing that could not have happened with mahogany ; nor is there the smallest mark of worm holes

on any of them. The wood is not only thus durable above ground, but seems to be even incorruptible below ground, or immersed in water. The city of Venice is built almost entirely upon piles of larch wood, which are found to be perfectly sound, though they have now stood seven or eight hundred years. It is also in a great measure incapable of being consumed by fire.

Since, then, such are the well known qualities of the larch, is it not astonishing that no wood merchant should ever have thought of importing a log of it into any part of Britain for sale? I am told it may be obtained at Dantzic or Memel, at nearly the same price with fir logs. Its German name is *lerchen-baum*. The man who shall first import some of this wood, would probably lay the foundation of a run of business to himself, that might prove very favourable to his family.

This wood can probably be got from any port on the south side of the Baltic; but the best place for obtaining it in perfection is the mouth of the Danube; as the mountains that skirt the borders of that river, are in a great measure furnished with forests of larch, which has never yet found an extensive foreign market. Were we to open a commerce with the Turks through the Black sea, this might prove a valuable staple article for completing cargoes, when other kinds of goods fell short.

If larch wood can be afforded at nearly the same price with that of fir, the consumption of it in this country would be immense, as soon as its qualities came to be fully known. Nothing in Europe can equal it for planks for ship-building. For all manner of joists, and rafters for houses, Vitruvius celebrates it as the very best that ever had been discovered; for gate-posts, rails, and out of door work, of all kinds, its incorruptible nature renders it peculiarly valuable. It is fortunate, that before many years shall be elapsed, this country will be able to supply itself

with this valuable timber, as the great beauty of this tree, and the quickness of its growth, has recommended it to the notice of every person who is making plantations; so that the demand for young plants of it for several years past, in Scotland at least, has been very great, and is daily increasing, every part of the country, therefore, will be abundantly furnished with it in a few years. It cannot be so too soon.

INTELLIGENCE RESPECTING THE FINE ARTS,
AND LITERATURE IN BRITAIN.

Bowyer's Hume's history.

THE success of Boydell's magnificent edition of Shakespeare has been such as not only to induce him to undertake an edition of the works of Milton and Thomson on the same plan, but has stimulated others to tread the same ground. Mr Bowyers, Berner's street, London, has lately published a prospectus of proposals for printing the history of England by David Hume, with a continuation of that history from the Revolution to the present time by David Williams, to be printed in a superb manner, and illustrated by elegant portraits, and historical prints, done from paintings to be made for this work, by the first artists in Britain. The paintings to be exhibited as those in the Shakespeare gallery, and given to the public after the work is completed. The following are the artist already engaged for this work :

PAINTERS.

J. Barry.	T. Laurence.	T. Stothard.
J. S. Copley.	W. Martin.	H. Tresham.
R. Cosway.	J. Northcote.	J. Wright, of Derby.
Mrs Cosway.	G. Romney.	F. Wheatly.
H. Fuseli.	I. F. Rigaud.	R. L. Welsh, and
W. Hamilton.	R. Smirke.	Benjamin West.

ENGRAVERS.

Bartolozzi.	Emes.	Pourcey.
Byrne.	Fitler.	Sharp.
Bromley.	Hall.	Skelton.
Blake.	Landseer.	A. Smith.
Collier.	Medland.	S. Smith.
Delatre.	Neagle.	Stowe.

It has been often asserted, and has been long implicitly believed, that nothing but religious zeal, and the wealth accumulated by the clergy in Roman Catholic countries, could afford sufficient encouragement for calling forth the exertions of men of genius in the fine arts. The time seems to approach when experience will give the lie to this hypothesis, as it has done already to many others. Before the art of printing was discovered, rich men, alone, could become the patrons of men of genius; but now the general diffusion of knowledge by printing and engraving, combined with the general diffusion of wealth by means of manufactures and trade, afford a public patronage, that seems to be capable of liberally compensating the most eminent artists for the highest exertions of genius. The effects of this mode of encouragement seem to be wonderful, if we are to judge from the rapidity of the progress of enterprizes of this kind since it was first begun.

Boydell's views on the Thames, Forth, Clyde, and Severn.

THIS is another attempt of the same nature with those above named. The unfortunate Mr John Knox first set this undertaking a-foot; but for want of funds it proved in his hands abortive. Since his death the drawings that were made for his intended work having been sold, another bookseller attempted to carry his plan into effect,

but Mr Boydell having interfered, and proposed to extend the work from the Forth, which was all that was originally intended, to the three other rivers above named, the other proposals have been withdrawn, probably in consequence of a compromise, and Mr Boydell will thus have the honour of bringing forward the first public grand display of the present powers of British artists, in the line of landscape, as he had formerly done in that of the historic line by his Shakespeare. This seems, however, to be an attempt on a much narrower plan than his former; for we see no other name announced but that of *Farington* as the designer, and of *Stodier* as the engraver in *aqua tinta*; so that, without derogating from the merit of these artists, it is easy to see that neither that force nor variety can be expected, which would have happened if rival artists had been invited to display the utmost power of their talents.

This work is proposed to consist of five volumes in superb 4to. the same as the Shakespeare, each volume to contain at least forty plates; the whole to comprehend an historical description of every thing remarkable relating to these four principal British rivers and estuaries.

Morrison's Thomson.

THOUGH Scotland is yet, and must long continue far behind England in the fine arts, and in wealth, she is not perhaps behind her in a spirit of enterprize. In regard to typography, the books printed by the late Mr Martin of Edinburgh, at the Apollo Press, surpassed in neatness and beauty, any thing that had at that time been executed in Britain; and every learned reader is acquainted with the elegance of the Greek classics printed by the Fowls's of Glasgow. Mr Bell at London has copied Martin's manner, and introduced a taste for neatness in printing, that will soon

spread over the whole island. No one house, perhaps, in the island, has made greater exertions to improve the typographic art, than the Morrisons at Perth, who, in a situation that is by no means favourable for enterprizes of that sort, have executed many works, particularly the Scottish poets, in a cheap and elegant manner, that deserves a very high degree of applause. Ambitious, in some measure, to imitate their southern neighbours, they have lately published the episode of Palemon and Lavinia, from Thomson's Seasons, as a specimen of a superb edition of Thomson's works, to be ornamented with elegant engravings, which they offer to publish by subscription. May their success in this, and other laudable enterprizes, be proportioned to their judicious efforts !

Gregory's history of England.

ANOTHER literary performance is lately announced to the public, as in some degree of forwardness. It is a history of England, from the Revolution, to the present time, by G. Gregory, D.D. F.A.S. well known in the republic of letters by his essays historical and moral ; this work is to consist of four volumes 4to. to be printed in a superb manner, on the finest vellum paper, and to be ornamented with historical engravings, (in which the portraits of remarkable personages will be preserved,) designed and executed by the most eminent artists.

It is with pleasure that we see this very important period of English history, likely to be presented to the public, in a manner that will prove both agreeable, and interesting to the reader. Hitherto it has been treated only by zealous supporters of parties, who have written with a warmth of enthusiasm that is incompatible with the discovery of truth, which fatigues the impartial reader, and leaves him bewildered in a chaos of uncertainty ; for as to the

history of Smollet, the circumstances in which it was written are too well known, to allow the defects of it to reflect any blame upon its author. If the present work shall be executed in the manner the public have reason to expect, and not hurried forward with a precipitancy that is inconsistent with the accuracy necessary to give works of this nature their highest degree of perfection, it cannot fail to prove a valuable acquisition to the public.

Naval affairs.

CAPTAIN JOSEPH BRODIE who has been so often mentioned in this work for his ingenious inventions for the improvement of navigation, is lately returned from London, where he had been, at the desire of the Trinity House, for the purpose of explaining the principles of his various improvements. At their desire, he carried models of the whole along with him, which we are assured gave the highest satisfaction. The Navy Board already ordered several buoys, to be constructed according to his plan, to be fixed on sunk rocks or sands, along the coast; and there seems to be now scarcely any doubt, but that funds will be provided for erecting a beacon on the *bell rock*, (see vol. v. p. 295.) which is the object that captain Brodie has most at heart, as being calculated to insure safety to navigators in a situation where, without it, they never can be secure.

Rearing of silk in Scotland.

It is with pleasure we have heard, that the honourable Board of Trustees, for the encouragement of manufactures and fisheries in Scotland, have turned their attention to the rearing of silk in this country. As a small mark of their desire to promote experiments on that head, they, some time ago, gave to Mr Andrew Wright at Paisley, ten guineas, for his laudable perseverance in rearing.

silk worms, till he had procured as much as was sufficient for making a web of gauze of the silk of his own rearing ; some ladies in this place, whose names I am not permitted to mention, have produced some silk in great perfection, and I make no doubt, but that next year they will obtain it in such a quantity as to admit of its being applied to some useful purpose.

ANECDOTES.

IN the early part of his life, Mr Whitfield was preaching in an open field, when a drummer happened to be present, who was determined to interrupt his pious business, and rudely beat his drum in a violent manner, in order to drown the preacher's voice. Mr Whitfield spoke very loud, but was not so powerful as the instrument. He therefore called out to the drummer in these words, " Friend, you and I serve the two greatest masters existing, but in different callings ;—you beat up for volunteers for king George,—I for Lord Jesus ;—in God's name, then, let us not interrupt each other ; the world is wide enough for both ; and we may get recruits in abundance." This speech had such an effect, that he went away in great good humour, and left the preacher in full possession of the field.

THE Jews of Gibraltar, according to annual custom, had prepared a present for the governor. He was by some means informed it was but a thousand shekins, and refused to admit them to an audience, under the pretext of their being the descendants of those men who had crucified our Saviour. They easily discovered the real cause, and raised two thousand. He then received them very graciously, remarking, that " they, poor people, had no hand in the crucifixion."

CARD.

THE earl of BUCHAN presents his compliments to his learned correspondents, both at home and abroad, and his dutiful respects to the republic of letters in general.

He has had the good fortune, by the liberal and commendable interposition of the learned and truly respectable bishop of Rodez, to receive the following important communication from that worthy and learned ecclesiastic, the abbé de St Leger, relating to the inestimable correspondence of the great Nicholas Claudius de Fabry de Peiresc, senator of the Parliament of Aix, so celebrated over the whole world for his patronage of learning and learned men, and for his wonderful knowledge of history and antiquities. Lord Buchan had been informed by his friend the celebrated John Bernoulli, at Berlin, that the Fabry family were still in possession of the eminent store of literature which belonged to the library of Peiresc, a part of which has been enumerated by the famous Gassendi, in the appendix to his life of Peiresc; and he now finds that the abbé de St Leger is in possession of a most important part of this literary treasure, the letters that passed between M. de Peiresc, and the most learned men of his time in Europe, relating to philosophy, natural history, botany, civil history, biography, philology, criticism, and elegant literature, together with an immense collection of facts relating to antiquity in every part of Europe, to monuments, muniments, and medals, and to the annals of illustrious families. This noble collection, which if printed would fill seven or eight volumes in 4to. he has agreed to put into lord Buchan's hands, for three thousand livres of France. The letters addressed to M. de Peiresc, and to other learned men, in this collection, were originally arranged by M. Thomassin de Mazauges, into three classes; those written in Latin, Italian, and French, omitting all such as were merely complimentary, or contained no important or entertaining information. And in the year 1724 M. Thomassin announced his intention of publishing three volumes of this collection as a specimen of the extensive undertaking.

This advertisement to the learned world was made in the *Nouvelles Littéraires* of the above mentioned year, and is to be found in the 167th and following pages of that literary journal, printed for Mesnier at Paris, 8vo.

Among the learned and eminent persons whose letters are contained in this collection, are

The Chancellor d'Aligre,	Scaliger,	Gevart,
The President de Thou,	Mr Petit,	Grotius,
Selvin, attorney-general	Mr de Bagarris,	Meursius,
of the parliament of	Mr Tristan de St Amand,	Spelman,
Paris,	Mr Bergin,	Kircher,
M. d'Avaux, counsellor	Mr de Naude,	Gorlée,
of state, and ambassa-	Mr Capel,	The duke d'Archevot,
dor to Venice,	Mr Besty,	Cardinal Barbarini,
M. d'Andilly,	The Fathers Sirmond,	Asemanni,
M. de Lomenie,	Mr Fronton du Duc,	Pignori,

The two Puteanus's (Duc de St Marthe,)	Mr Morin at Amsterdam,	Gualdo,
M. de Cousin,	Mr le Jay,	Peter de la Vallei,
M. de Valois,	Holstenius,	Aleander,
M. de Godefroy,	Selden,	Aldrovandus,
M. de Fabiot,	Camden,	Cittadini,
Salmasius, (Mr de Saumaise,)	Bertius,	Doni,
	Erpenius,	Pasqualini,
	Velser,	Suarez, &c. &c.

The eulogies of Peiresc, by all the learned men of his time, after his death, which happened in the year 1637, were collected and printed at Rome in the following year, 4to. with the title of *Monumentum Romanum*, &c. The praises of Peiresc are there given in forty different languages.

Lord Buchan has thought that it would be a great pleasure, (particularly in the present age) to open up this noble treasure to the world, and it would be very agreeable if literary men would communicate their sentiments to him through the channel of this Miscellany, or other literary journals for the determination of so voluminous a publication. Nor is it doubted but Mr George Nicol, bookseller to his majesty, or Mr Nichols printer in London, who have, on all occasions, so liberally promoted every plan for advancing the interests of literature, will freely co-operate in promoting so laudable an undertaking.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE Editor is much obliged to the person who has so kindly transmitted the verses by Mr Burns, which shall have a place as soon as possible.

The favour of *E. D. I.* is just come hand, and shall appear if possible in our next.

The imitation of *Calderon's* sonnet in our next.

The sonnet, and another communication by the correspondent who favoured us with the beautiful original letters and verses by Thomson, are come to hand.

A Lover of his country has chosen a subject for his speculations, that is evidently new to him. Political disquisitions, before they can be fit for the public eye, ought to be well reflected on; and a writer before he answers another ought to be certain he understands what he endeavours to refute. We are sorry this ingenious writer should have taken up his pen in so much haste. It is only well digested thoughts that reflect honour on the writer, or that serve to instruct the reader.

The Editor is obliged to *Philo Britannicus* for the trouble he has taken in transcribing so long a paper; but the circumstance that gave rise to it is now forgotten, and ought to remain so.

The favour of *Argus* is received.

The hint of *Z. O. D.* shall be taken into consideration.

The valuable extracts furnished by a *Lover of Freedom* are thankfully received, and shall be employed when convenience permits.

The very interesting disquisition by *Pulmonicus* will be inserted as soon as possible.

As also that of *Horticultural*, with the many other valuable essays that accompany it.



Engraved for the Bee.



Gustavus the Third
King of
SWEDEN

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28. 1792.

SLIGHT MEMORANDUMS

OF THE KING OF SWEDEN.

With a portrait.

SWEDEN has undergone a greater number of revolutions in modern times than any other country in Europe. For about two hundred years past there has been a continued struggle between what they called liberty and despotism, yet they have not so far advanced in the science of government, as to be able to discover the fundamental maxim on which true liberty depends, *viz*, "That the legislative and the executive powers should never be suffered to unite in the same hand, and that the judicial power should be distinct from both." Hence every revolution has been to them merely a change of masters, and has only given room to new systems of oppression.

When the present king came to the throne, the government was a cruel aristocracy, though it assumed the name of a regal state. When this form of

government was first established it held forth to the people the allurements of democracy ; the very peasants themselves, who were in their domestic situation no better than slaves to their mesne lords, were admitted to a share in the legislative assembly of the nation ; no law could be passed without their own consent to it. But notwithstanding this seemingly important privilege, they soon found themselves, as others in similar circumstances have often been before, subjected to a more rigid oppression than that was, under which they groaned when they effected their last revolution, and they longed to experience another change, without knowing what they should wish it to be.

The king having observed this general discontent in the nation, and feeling that he possessed the name of a king alone, without those prerogatives he thought should be annexed to it, formed a plan to emancipate himself from this galling state of pupillage, and digested his scheme so well, that he effected in one moment an entire revolution in the government ; and without one drop of bloodshed, rendered himself, to the great satisfaction of the bulk of his *people*, the despotic lord of all his dominions *. Since that time he has made such a proper use of his authority, as

* Nothing can point out in a more striking manner the futility of all political oaths, and consequently the iniquity of imposing them, than what occurred in this transaction. But such is the weakness of men, whenever they assume any degree of power that their own minds make them suspect is beyond the bounds of reason, they grasp at even the smallest appearance of a shadow, that they think has a prospect of perpetuating it. Hence it has happened in every encroachment that has ever been made upon the just rights of mankind, the parties concerned in such en-

to give general satisfaction to the lower orders of the people, whose welfare and prosperity he has found it his interest to promote, and to prevent even the machinations of his humbled aristocratics from disturbing the tranquillity of the state. One feeble attempt of the nobles to oppose his will, was so easily repressed, as scarcely to deserve to be noticed. Thus do they enjoy *for the present*, a beneficial change in their circumstances; and it is to be hoped, that the enlightened state of Europe, will teach the monarchs to know in future, that their own true interest is so intimately connected with the prosperity of the people, as not to admit of being disjoined from it with safety.

croachments have been prodigal of oaths to bind those to their cause who they suspect are not hearty in it. They seem not willing to advert, that oaths never can bind the unprincipled class of mankind, who alone are the persons in these cases to be most dreaded. They seem also to forget that people, who find it their interest to break an oath where a high stake is at hand, will always find casuists in abundance to satisfy their consciences that they have only done right, when they disregarded these oaths. Probably Gustavus was thus satisfied, that he committed no crime when he one day swore, in the most solemn manner, that he never would infringe the constitution that existed before his accession to the throne; though only two days afterwards he totally overturned that constitution. "These," he would probably say to himself, "are a parcel of tyrants, who have assumed an unjust authority over both me and my people to oppress us. I have no way of freeing my people from this thralldom (a most meritorious enterprise) but by complying for the present with their orders: I therefore submit to it, that I may be enabled to serve my country." Could I, by thus showing the absurdity of imposing such oaths, in any respect prevent their being so universally resorted to, as they are in the present day, I should think that I served the cause of humanity a good deal; I always suspect it is a bad cause, where oaths are prodigally requested; and those who are most forward in taking them, I should often suspect had formed a plan, like the good king of Sweden, to break them as quickly as possible.

This is the only security they enjoy for a continuance of liberty and protection: Slender security!

To have effected such a great revolution, with so much ease, discovers that the king of Sweden is by no means destitute of talents; and his conduct in other respects confirms this judgement. By the best accounts that have been published of this kingdom, it has advanced considerably in domestic improvement under his administration. His manners are engaging, and his conduct to his people affable and mild, so that he is, upon the whole, well esteemed by the nation. And if the reflections on the balance of power in Europe, lately translated by lord Fitzwilliam, be his, his talents as a writer are not inconsiderable, though the consistency of his conduct as a politician may be disputed.

On a recent occasion he put his popularity to the test in a very eminent degree. Instigated, as it should seem, by a desire to display his military prowess, he very unadvisedly and rashly entered into a war with Russia, under a pretext that no reason could authorise; and he has paid dear for the well earned laurels he obtained on that occasion. Trusting to his own marine, and to the assistance he hoped to derive from others, and expecting that Russia, embarrassed with the war against the Turks, would not be able to oppose him with vigour, he made a sudden irruption into the Russian Finland, where he met with greater opposition than was expected. His fleet, unassisted by any ally, was opposed by the whole naval power of Russia in the Baltic, and after an obstinate fight of two days, was entirely broken, and nearly annihilated. On that occasion, with an

intrepidity that recalled to remembrance the Prussian hero, he, with a few small vessels, performed prodigies of valour; snatched the victory from his enemies that they thought themselves sure of; saved the flattered remains both of his fleet and his army, which were on the brink of destruction; and siezing the favourable moment, he concluded, without the participation of any of his allies, a peace with Russia, on terms more favourable for him than his dangerous situation gave him any reason to expect.

Every thing in the conduct of this prince discovers a vigorous and active mind, that shrinks not from danger, but seeks resources within itself on every trying emergency. But here we discover the talents of a hero, rather than the knowledge and caution of a judicious statesman. Nothing could have proved more hurtful to his country than the war with Russia. Denmark was in alliance with Russia, and could not be supposed to behold with pleasure any accession to his power, so that she readily espoused the cause of the Czarina; his own subjects found themselves thus precluded at once, from benefiting themselves by that trade, which the war between Russia and the Porte enabled them, before that unhappy enterprise, to carry on with great profit. Thus did the national trade and industry receive a great check, which it will be long before it can entirely recover. The effects of it are still felt by his people, and consequently his revenues are proportionably diminished by it. He seems to be sensible of these evils, and desirous of repairing them. If this check shall prevent him from engaging in other still more ridiculous enterprises, it will be happy for his people.

None of the princes in Europe seem to view the revolution in France with a more unfavourable eye than Gustavus of Sweden; and there is reason to fear that nothing but a consciousness of inability will prevent him from interfering in this ungracious business. Whether the courts of Madrid and Petersburg, by flattering his propensity to military fame, may be able to induce him, by a small pecuniary gratification, openly to engage in this quarrel, it is hard to say. But if he does, it is not difficult to foresee that his country will long have reason to lament, that their best interests have been once more sacrificed, in order to add to the military glory of their princes.

ON A COURSE OF READING.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

THE multiplicity and frequent publication of books, with the number of libraries, public and private, afford a pleasing indication of a general disposition among the British to read. Of readers there are two kinds, those who make reading their business, and those who, having other business, make reading their amusement: The latter either seek for information, or read only to loiter away the hours that hang heavy on their hands. From the vast abundance and rapid circulation of trifling books, it is to be feared that the class is large of those whose object is rather to spend than improve their time by reading, who seek for entertainment merely, and think not of combining the useful and agreeable together. The purpose of my present address is to endeavour to remedy this,

and bring the waste of desultory reading within the cultivated regions of science, and to add to that store of knowledge, derived from the labours of men who make study their business, the fruits to be expected from the improved leisure of those who make reading their amusement.

No adept in rhetoric, I have little hope of influence with this order of loungers ; argument would stun them to a deaf inattention, so I despair of success by convincing their reason ; and, without the powers of persuasion, I want the means of inlisting their passions in the cause, and insinuating that they would find more solid pleasure and real variety in a regular course of useful reading, than in the disgusting lusciousness of a novel, or the pert gossiping of a newspaper ; that, instead of being teased with a continual prurience of imagination, which it is impossible to satisfy, and an irritable anxiety about trifles, which increases by indulgence, they would strengthen their minds without benumbing their feelings, and gratify their curiosity while they were collecting rational information ; and that, instead of their lives remaining a burthen on themselves, they might, by this means, not only enhance their own welfare, but add to that of society. I presume not officiously to intrude my advice upon the professionally studious, but rather solicit their assistance and correction in what is deemed advantageous to the diffusion of knowledge.

I am one of those who have been in the practice of employing their leisure in reading for instruction as well as amusement. It is to readers of a like cast

that my attention is chiefly directed. I have had little difficulty in procuring books, but to make a proper selection from the crowded catalogue, I have found no easy matter. Indeed there are no hours of lost time I remember with more regret, than those I have misspent in the perusal of absurd authors on absurd subjects. The delays, and the toils, and the hardships I have undergone, in struggling through bogs and wildernesses, induce me to set up a guide-post to shew other future travellers the way: I make the attempt with a confidence of doing no mischief, and leading no one astray, as I am subject to the correction of you and your learned correspondents.

Without farther apology, I submit to the consideration of your readers the following course of study, as calculated to convey a general outline of the principal branches of knowledge, and to prevent a waste of time and patience, in a useless perusal of writers, less qualified than the authors mentioned in the list, to afford the instruction requisite.

1. *Logic*—Duncan's *Logic*.

2. *Theology*—Hartley's observations on man, part II. chap. 1st and 2d.

3. *Natural law, and moral philosophy*—Paley's principles of moral and political philosophy; or Burlamaqui's natural and political law, (translated by Nugent,) or Rutherford's institutes of natural and political law.

4. *General politics*—Montesquieu's spirit of laws (except 27th, 28th, 30th, and 31st books.)

5. *History*—1st and 2d vols. of Rollin's ancient history—Goldsmith's Grecian history—Goldsmith's

Roman history—Rufsel's history of modern Europe, 5 vols.—Ramsay's history of the American revolution.

6. *Mathematics and geometry*—Ludlam's rudiments of mathematics—Euclid's elements.

7. *Natural philosophy*—Helfham's lectures; or Rowning's philosophy.

8. *Chymistry*—Watson's Chymical essays.

9. *Natural history*—Smellie's philosophy of natural history.

10. *Agriculture*—Lord Kaimes's gentleman farmer.

11. *OEconomical politics*—Smith's wealth of nations.

12. *Criticism*—Kaim's elements of criticism; or Blair's lectures.

13. *English government and law*—De Lolme on the English constitution, and Blackstone's commentaries.

Except with respect to history, it is recommended to the student to go through the course regularly as it is numbered, and not to pursue any particular head farther, till he has been once through the whole, so that he may be the better able to judge which subject is most likely to suit his taste and situation; and what others are best adapted collaterally to assist in the farther cultivation of his favourite branch. To make any materially useful progress towards perfection in one of these heads requires a closeness of attention which it is impossible to bestow on all; nor is it designed to dissipate that attention over too wide a field. The purpose of such

a general plan of study, is, by exhibiting a view of all, to enable a man to form a just opinion of each, from the opportunity he has of making the proper comparisons, and to prevent prejudice and a bigotted attachment to technical maxims and professional tenets, arising from a partial and contracted inspection into things, mutually dependent on each other. A man should not at all times be peeping through a microscope, lest it pervert his judgement; and that he may not mistake a gnat for a camel let him remove the glass sometimes, and by circumspection avoid error. These advantages, I esteem a valuable compensation for the time employed in the survey. Let no one be alarmed at the apparent magnitude of the task, for the whole range does not include a quantity equal to forty volumes 8vo.; and, excepting numbers sixth and seventh, none of them will require any severe application. The books are all, I think, except *Hartley*, very common, and I suppose may be furnished by most circulating libraries and book societies. *Hartley's observations on man* has become very scarce in the shops, but I believe the part referred to here is inserted among *bishop Watson's theological tracts*. Where there seems to be an option, as in number third, to the priority of order the preference should be given; the others are only added lest the first should not be met with. The student is supposed to be previously acquainted with the common rules of arithmetic, and a little knowledge of geography. When reading history one ought not to be without maps, and a chronological *vade mecum* of some kind. If particular directions for study are required, they may be

seen in *Locke's conduct of the understanding*, or in *Watt's improvement of the mind*; but caution ought to be observed, not to pay too great an attention to the minutiae of Watt. When an apparatus is too nice, a person becomes inclined to trust much to its powers, and little to his own exertions. The mental faculties are the most improved by exercise. Numbers six and seven, will require much time and close attention. Broken hours of leisure will not be very favourable to the reading of mathematics, and natural philosophy: It may, therefore, be advisable to appropriate the greater portions of spare time to numbers six and seven, while the smaller are occupied by pursuing the train of history, number five. The books recommended in this class, will perhaps be deemed too superficial. A general view is the object. However, as soon as the reader has got through the authors cited in number five, he may proceed in the following order;

Gillies's history of Greece—*Rollin's ancient history*, volumes 8th, 9th, and 10th—*Ferguson's history of the Roman republic*—*Gibbon's history of the decline and fall of the Roman empire*, abridged—*Robertson's history of Charles V.*—*Voltaire's age of Lewis XIV.*—*Voltaire's age of Lewis XV.*—Historical parts of the *annual registers*, from 1759 to the present time—*Reynal's history of the European settlements and trade in the East and West Indies*—*Mosheim's ecclesiastical history*—*Henry's history of Great Britain*—*Hume's history*, beginning with Henry VII.—*Macaulay's history of England*—*Smollet's history of England from*

the revolution—Historical parts of the *annual register* again.

If the reader wishes to proceed to *metaphysics*, after perusing *Duncan's logic*, it will be prudent to suspend the design till he has completed the course, and then to begin with *Locke's essay on the human understanding*, and *Hartley's theory of the human mind by Priestley*. Although several expressions I have used, in compliance with general custom, may appear to relate to men only, yet I beg that such may be construed as comprehending both sexes; for I perfectly agree with your correspondent Sophia (vol. 3. p. 228.) that women have an equal right with men to all the advantages of instruction. I have no doubt of their capacities, and reprobate the prejudice which continues to repress their mental energy by a contracted education.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

October 1791.

WM. DRUTHIN.

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME ENGLISH NOVELS.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Bee.

NOVELS are a species of writing very common in this country. To excel in them, however, requires a more pregnant imagination, and a greater extent of judgement, than the generality are disposed to admit. As a proof of this assertion, a stronger argument could not be adduced, than the multitude of novelists who have written without success. Few men have been more fortunate in the acquisition of literary

fame than Henry Feilding, and there are few men of letters who are not conversant with his writings.

The most striking peculiarity in Feilding's works, is the remarkable fertility of his invention, the justice and ingenuity of his observations, and his thorough knowledge of the human heart. As a novelist, we are charmed with the interesting texture of his story; and his acute and satirical remarks on the manner and the mind of man, convince us of the source from which such merit could flow. His originality of genius has never been, nor ever can be disputed, since he has struck out for himself a path entirely new. For propriety of language, or natural characters, he certainly bears away the palm from every novelist, Smollet always excepted, in Britain.

His Joseph Andrews abounds with the most exquisite humour, and poignant satire. It was professedly an imitation of Cervantes; and in drawing humorous scenes he has often at least equalled his master.

The learning of parson Adams, his entire ignorance of the world, the goodness and the simplicity of his heart, are drawn with the nicest judgement. The modesty and good sense of Joseph, and the refined sentiments of Fanny, are truly the copyings of nature. As for his Foundling, I venture to affirm, that it is the most complete novel in the English language; and for the perspicuity of style, and variety of incident, has never been surpassed. No characters can be more original than those of Jones, Allworthy, and Partridge. From the hero of the piece, to the lowest character,

the propriety is discoverable. Feilding has been well versant in critical knowledge, of which his introductory chapters in the *Foundling* will exhibit a lasting monument. Had Feilding wanted his prologomenous chapters, still the sensible application of his cursory and detached observations, interspersed in the history, would have founded his reputation in the opinion of men of sense. In the tender and pathetic *Amelia*, we see that genius which shone so lively in the *Foundling*, like the setting sun emerging from a cloud, now and then emitting a feeble ray, emblematical of its former greatness.

Samuel Richardson was possessed of considerable abilities. His works are replete with delicate sentiments and precepts of morality. As a fund of entertainment, they have been justly commended; they are certainly calculated for this purpose in a high degree. His moral reflections also, I doubt not, have been of considerable utility; but a moralist, I apprehend, is a character distinct from a novelist. As to his language, it is sufficiently adapted for this class of writing; though not dignified, it flows with a volubility pleasing to the reader. If it has a fault it lies in its redundancy; but the observation is applicable with equal propriety to his language and matter. I imagine his knowledge of human nature has been chiefly derived from books; for his works do not lead us to conclude that he has ever accurately studied the book of nature. His knowledge of mankind, therefore, must have been very confined; for however exquisitely human nature may have been described by writers, the true practical system can be learned only in the world.

The character of Sir Charles Grandison is overstrained, his honour is so refined and fantastical in many places, that it descends to meanness, particularly in his offers to the Italian family. Dr Bartlet is, however, an original character; and Mrs Shirly will, I hope, be often found in real life. His want of humour has produced a wretched picture of puerility in the person of Charlotte. Richardson has not followed the proper rule of novel writing. What I understand to be the characteristic feature of a novel, is an exact delineation of real life. In defence of these perfect patterns, says Richardson in the concluding note to his *Grandison*: “The corruption of human nature may indeed be exhibited in the faulty character; but need pictures of this kind be held out in books? Is not vice crowned with success, triumphant and rewarded, and perhaps set off with wit and spirit, a dangerous representation.” If my idea of novel writing be just, the answer to this is obvious. It is of no consequence, whether the representation be vicious or virtuous, in writing a fictitious history, which consists in a relation of the manners and actions of man, it is human nature that is undertaken to be represented, and in as far as this is not done, the author has not performed his task. The painter could have no merit, who should be employed to draw a likeness, though he drew it perfectly beautiful, both in symmetry and complexion, if it bore no resemblance to the original. In like manner, if one undertakes to write the life of a man, is it consistent to ascribe to him actions which are not only void of probability, but even of possibility. Though, in support of this perfection of character, Richardson men-

tions the delight and instruction of dwelling on this bright side of things ; yet his *Clarissa* shews that he could dwell with equal prolixity on the dark side. Lovelace partakes as much of the nature of an infernal spirit, as Sir Charles Grandison resembles the idea we form of superior beings ; Lovelace however may be accounted the most original character in Richardson's works. As for his *Pamela*, as it is a performance only fitted for the nursery, it is below criticism.

I have read your correspondent Bombardinion's remarks on Smollet's novels, and think he has handled Dr Smollet with his usual acuteness. Indeed after reading the works of Feilding, Richardson, and Smollet, instead of being either amusing or instructive, it becomes a grievous task to proceed with patience to the end of almost all our other modern novels. Some aiming at wit and humour, degenerate into pertness and foolery ; and others, walking upon the crutches of imitation, retail the defects of their masters, without any of their beauty or ingenuity. Most of them are filled with low tea-table talk, without one spark of genius. What an ingenious critic in your *Bee* remarks on modern dramatists, may be also applied to this class of writers, that quaintness and affectation are characteristic of modern authors, and that they mutually borrow fantastical pieces from each other.

Peterhead Feb. 28. 1792.

GRUMIO*.

* Let not the surly critic look upon this juvenile morsel with too severe an eye. Though these observations are not in all cases strictly just, he will here perceive the rudiments of that independence of mind, which

ON THE EARTH WORM.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Bee,

IT is with great judgement that from your excellent Miscellany you seem to have excluded metaphysical disquisitions and theological controversy. These subjects, instead of improving the taste, and humanizing the mind, could serve no other end than to perplex the understandings of those to whom it is your laudable object to communicate useful information, and to excite, perhaps, the angry passions of your more learned readers. When I express myself in this manner, I am entitled to the credit of postponing my own amusement to general utility ; for from the age of sixteen, metaphysics have been my favourite study.

But though I would not, for my gratification, wish you to fill your pages with ontological distinctions, and abstruse reasonings, which to men, not early initiated in such studies, convey no ideas whatever, there are yet topics, intimately connected with metaphysics, which I think might be treated in such a manner, as to add to the public stock of useful knowledge. The metaphysician, whose aim is the discovery of truth, and not the propagation of paradoxes, cannot hope to obtain his purpose without some previous knowledge of natural history and the principles of anatomy. It

form the basis of every excellent literary acquirement. I wish not, however, that this indulgence should be misconstrued. Let young men never forget that just criticism is in a peculiar manner the province of age in the literary republic. There are abundance of other departments in which the young candidate for literary fame may exercise his ingenuity, with a much better prospect of success.

J. A.

is vain to inquire into the nature of the sentient *principle*, before we know the structure and functions of the *organs* of sensation.

Permit me, then, for my own information, to state a few facts, and to put a few questions respecting the organs and the seat of sensation, as they appear in certain classes of animals. In men, and in the higher orders of animals, we all know that sensation centers in the brain; that it is propagated by motion from the extremities of the nerves; and that the sentient principle, whatever it be, cannot be divided. The facts, from which these conclusions are drawn, it is needless for me to enumerate. Every one, who has at all studied the subject, has had sufficient evidence, that sensibility, and the power of motion, are by the nerves conveyed to all parts of the body from the brain and spinal marrow; that when the nerves of any part are cut, tied, or strongly compressed, the functions of that part are either destroyed or much impaired; and that, when a great injury is done to the medullary substance of the brain itself, sensation, memory, and intellect, are wholly lost. But in worms, and in certain species of insects, the faculty of sensation exhibits a very different appearance. If an earth-worm be cut in two pieces, sensation, so far from being lost, remains as well with the tail as with the head; and, which is yet more wonderful, each piece, instead of instantly dying, becomes, in time, a complete worm. This power of reproduction, however, appears to be subject to certain laws. "Having found," says *Abbé Spallanzani*, "that the anterior part, or the head, reproduced the tail, I was willing to try whe-

ther this took place when the head was cut at different distances, and whether any difference, in the method of dividing, would prevent the usual reproduction. It was, therefore, necessary to observe, whether the regenerative power existed in the whole length of the worm, so that the head, however long or short, would be equally fit to reproduce a tail. I found that nature has limits, beyond which this reproduction of the tail can be no longer effected."

The Abbé made many other inquiries concerning this power of reproduction, but the next, which he mentions to my purpose, was, whether the posterior part or the tail, could produce a new head. "I found," says he, "that upon cutting off a certain number of rings from the anterior part, the reproduction of the head took place in every species of earth-worms known to me; and I did not fail to attend in a great measure to the same things I had noted in the reproduction of the tail. If the number of rings taken off be such that the quantity of the anterior part separated be considerable, the reproduction of the head will not take place till after a long time, and then with difficulty; and not in every species of those insects. But as reproduction is only delayed, not prevented, by this kind of section, it may be concluded that earth-worms, or at least some species of them, reproduce not only the tail, but the head. When the rings cut off near the head are but few, the part reproduced is always equal to that which was taken off; but when there are many, the new head is commonly shorter, and has fewer rings than the first." He found, likewise, that the reproduction of a small

portion of the head, is sooner effected than the reproduction of an equal portion of the tail.

Being lastly come to the middle parts, "I was desirous," says he, "to know, whether both a new head and a new tail could be produced. I found that they really are both renewed, provided a large portion of the head be not taken off; for then the same thing will happen that we mentioned before. If a small portion of the anterior part be cut off, both head and tail will spring forth; but, as we have already observed, the head appears first, and then the tail, according to the law to which nature was found to adhere. The difficulty, therefore, with regard to the intermediate parts, lies in the reproduction of the head; and although this often fails, the tail will still begin to be regenerated; but this dies sooner or later, together with the middle part.

"Hitherto the animal is supposed to have been cut in three parts, *viz.* the head, the tail, and middle piece. I was then induced to inquire what happened to the earth-worm when cut in four, five, six, or more parts, which I ascertained by a great variety of experiments." The result of these experiments is unknown to me. It is not given in the short essay from which I quote; and which was published only as the prospectus of a larger work, which I have never seen. Perhaps it may be known to you, or to some of your readers, who can likewise inform me whether the facts related by the Abbé, with respect to the reproduction of earth-worms, are entitled to the fullest credit.

If they be, does it not follow that an earth-worm has not one individual life, but two different lives; accompanied each with a distinct and separate faculty of sensation? In other words, does not an earth-worm consist of two animated systems of matter, which, though united by some bond of connection, by which sensation is communicated from the one to the other, are yet in themselves perfectly distinct? I limit my supposition to two animated systems; because from the experiments of Spallanzani, with which alone I am acquainted, it does not appear, that when the worm is so divided, as that from the middle piece a new head and a new tail spring forth, either of the amputated extremities contain the power of reproduction. Perhaps the Abbé's experiments may be inaccurately stated; but, if they be not, does not my conjecture founded on them acquire some additional probability, from the undoubted fact that every earth-worm is an *hermaphrodite*? Admitting the truth of this conjecture, is it not highly probable that the two seats of sensation, analogous to the brain in man, are contiguous to each other, and at some distance from the extremities of the worm? And is it not self-evident that a wound, inflicted on either extremity of a worm, must, in that case, communicate to the animal two particular sensations instead of one?

It is not, Sir, for the purpose of exciting a controversy in the Bee, that I throw out these queries, but merely to obtain information on a curious subject, which I wish to understand, and of which, at the same time, I am profoundly ignorant. I never in my life made an experiment on an earth-worm, with a view to

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discover its seat of sensation; and former omisions, which I now regret, I have not present opportunities to supply. The answers to my queries which I expect, are *physiological*, and not metaphysical. These I might have had by a private application to yourself, as well as through the channel of your Miscellany; but if, by instructing me, you, at the same time, instruct others, you will so far contribute to the end of all your labours, the public good. The final cause of the reproductive power in the earth-worm is obvious and striking, and compels the reflecting mind to adore that providence, which, by such wonderful means, has contrived to preserve from extinction, a species of the lowest reptiles; and by which, therefore, we cannot doubt that even the hairs of our head are numbered. With real respect I am, Sir,

yours, &c.

E. O. J*..

COPY OF THE EARL OF BUCHAN'S LETTER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, SENT ENCLOSED IN THE BOX OF WALLACE'S OAK.

SIR,

Dryburgh Abbey June 28. 1791.

I HAD the honour to receive your Excellency's letter, relating to the advertisement of Dr Anderson's pe-

* It was not without hesitation that the Editor admitted the above: The ingenious author has well foreseen that he treads on dangerous ground. To draw the exact line between physiological research, and metaphysical speculation is impossible, but our readers will observe, that on this last subject, the Editor must be extremely circumspect.* He therefore hopes they will be so obliging as to guard against it in their answers, to prevent disappointment to themselves and uneasiness to him.

modical publication in the gazette of the United States, which attention to my recommendation I feel very sensibly, and return you for it my grateful acknowledgements.

In the 21st number of that literary miscellany, I inserted a monitory paper respecting America, which I flatter myself, may, if attended to on the other side of the Atlantic, be productive of good consequences.

To use your own emphatic words, "May that almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the American people, a government instituted by themselves, for public and private security, upon the basis of law, and equal administration of justice; *preserving to every individual* as much civil and political freedom as is consistent with the safety of the nation;" and may HE be pleased to continue YOUR life and strength, as long as you may be in any way useful to your country.

I have intrusted this sheet, enclosed in a box made of the oak that sheltered our great Sir William Wallace after the battle of Falkirk, to Mr Robertson of Aberdeen, with the hope of his having the honour of delivering it into your hands, and meeting with your protection as an honest man seeking for bread, and for fame the in new world by the exercise of his talents.

This box was presented to me by the goldsmiths company at Edinburgh, from whom, feeling my own unworthiness, to receive this magnificently expressive present, I requested, and obtained permission, to make

it over to the man in the world to whom I thought it was most justly due.

Into your Excellency's hands I commit it, requesting of you to transmit it, on the event of your decease, to the man in your own country, who shall appear to your judgement, to deserve it best, upon the same considerations that have induced me to send it to your Excellency. With the highest esteem, I have the honour to be Sir,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient humble servant,

BUCHAN.

READING MEMORANDUMS.

Continued from p. 64.

News, like other tales, are easily told: What is *hoped* is readily believed; and what is believed is confidently told.

The conceits of speculative men are such, that they strain their faculties to find in a *mine*, what lies on the surface.

Men may be convinced, but they cannot be pleased against their will; but though taste is obstinate, it is very variable, and time often prevails when arguments have failed.

The equal lot of the Scots clergy, is a strong check to every aspiring thought: It may blunt their ambition, but it binds them to their people, and invigorates every duty towards those, to whom they consider themselves connected for life.

To be continued.

POETRY.

For the Bee.

VERSES BY THOMSON ADDRESSED TO HIS AMANDA, NEVER
BEFORE PRINTED.

A^N urge too late! from beauty's bondage free,
Why did I trust my liberty with thee!
And thou, why didst thou, with inhuman art,
If not resolv'd to take, seduce my heart?
Yes! yes! you saw, (for lover's eyes speak true,)
You must have seen, how fast my passion grew;
And when your glances chanc'd on me to shine,
How my fond soul ecstatic sprung to thine.
But mark me, fair one! what I now declare,
A deep attention claims a serious care,
It is no common passion fires my breast;
I must be wretched, or I must be blest:
My woes all other remedy deny,
Or pitying give me hope, or bid me die!

For the Bee.

• VERSES WRITTEN ON A WINDOW IN BREADALBANE,
BY MR ROBERT BURNS, MAY 9. 1790.

ADMIRING nature in its wildest grace,
These northern scenes with weary feet I trace,
O'er many a winding dell, and painful steep,
Th' abode of covey'd grouse and timid sheep,
My savage journey, curious, I pursue,
Till fam'd Breadalbane opens on my view!
A rifted hill each deep sunk glen divides,
The woods wild scatter'd clothe their ample sides,
Th' out-stretching lake embosom'd 'mong the hills,
The eye with pleasure and amazement fills,
The Tay meand'ring sweet, in infant pride,
The palace rising on its verdant side,
The striking arches o'er the new-born stream,
The village glitt'ring in the noon-tide beam,
The lawns wood-fring'd in nature's native taste,
Nor with one single goth conceit disgrac'd.
Poetic ardours in my bosom swell,
Love wand'ring by the hermit's mossy cell,
The sweeping theatre of hanging woods,
Th' incessant roar of headlong tumbling floods.

Here poesy might wake her heaven taught lyre,
 And look thro' nature with creative fire,
 And to the wrongs of dust half reconcil'd,
 Misfortunes lighten'd, steps might wander wild,
 And disappointments in these lonely bounds,
 Find balm to soothe her bitter-rankling wounds,
 Here heart-struck grief might heaven-ward teach her scan
 And injur'd worth forget and pardon man.

ODE TO M——.

SHOULD virtue from the sky descend,
 And hither deign her course to bend
 Bedeck'd with native charms;
 All would, 'tis said, with rapture glow,
 Each base-born earthly joy forego,
 And fly to meet her arms.

But Ah! enthron'd amidst the gods,
 She sits and sways their blest abodes,
 Great Jove ev'n owns her reign.
 When first approach'd this iron age,
 She fled to shun its guilty rage,
 Ne'er to return again.

Who would her heav'nly emblem trace?
 See lovely M——'s matchless grace,
 Her sweet contented smile;
 Her crimson flush, her artless eyes,
 Her mien array'd in modest guise,
 Her heart unknown in guile.

C. F——k.

To the Editor of the Bee

LINES ADDRESSED BY A YOUNG LADY TO HER FATHER.

OH author of my being! far more dear
 To me than light, than nourishment, or rest,
 Hygeia's blessings, rapture's burning tear,
 Or the life blood, that mantles in my breast.

If in my heart, the love of virtue glows,
 'Twas planted there by an unerring rule,
 From thy example the pure flame arose,
 Thy life my precept, thy good works my school.

Could my weak pow'rs thy num'rous virtues trace,
 By filial love each fear should be repress'd,
 The blush of incapacity I'd chace,
 And stand *recorder* of thy worth confests'd.

But since my niggard stars that gift refuse,
 Concealment is the only boon I claim;
 Obscure be still the unsuccessful muse,
 Who cannot raise, but would not sink thy fame.

Oh! of my life at once the source and joy!
 If e'er thy eyes these feeble lines survey,
 Let not their folly, their intent destroy,
 Accept the tribute but forget the lay.

THE LIBERTINE REPULSED.

HENCE, Belmour, perfidious! this instant retire,
 No further entreaties employ,
 Nor meanly pretend any more to admire,
 What basely you wish to destroy.

Say, youth, must I madly rush forward on shame,
 If a traitor but artfully sighs?
 And eternally part with my honour and fame,
 For a compliment paid to my eyes?

If a flame all dishonest be vilely profest,
 Thro' tendernefs must I incline,
 And seek to indulge the repose of a breast,
 That would plant endless tortures in mine!

No, Belmour!—a passion I can't but despise,
 Shall never find way to my ears;
 Nor a man meet a glance of regard from these eyes,
 That would drench them for ever in tears.

Can the lover who thinks, náy, who wishes me base!
 Expect that I e'er should be kind?
 Or atone, with a paltry address to my face,
 For the injury done to my mind?

Hence, Belmour, this instant! and cease ev'ry dream,
 Which your hope saw so foolishly born;
 Nor vainly imagine to gain my esteem,
 By deserving my hate and my scorn.



EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM THOMSON
TO THE SISTER OF HIS AMANDA AT BATH.

Nov. 27. 1742.

I HOPE the ladies have at last got their wardrobe. To be at Bath, yet debarred from the rooms, must have been a cruel mortification to such as knew less how to converse with and enjoy themselves. The very situation of Tantalus!—up to the lip in diversions, without being able to catch a drop of them! And yet, notwithstanding all these diversions, I do from my soul most sincerely pity you, to be so long doomed to a place so delightfully tiresome.—Delightfully, did I say? No; it is merely a scene of waking dreams, where nothing but the phantoms of pleasure fly about, without any substance or reality.—What a round of silly amusements! what a giddy circle of nothing do these children of a larger size run every day! Nor does it only give a gay vertigo to the head, it has equally a bad influence on the heart. When the head is full of nothing but dress, and scandal, and dice, and cards, and rowly powly, can the heart be sensible to those fine emotions, those tender, humane, generous passions that form the soul of all virtue and happiness?—Ah then, ye lovers, never think to make any impression on the hearts of your *Dissipated Fair* *!

ANOTHER LETTER OF THOMSON TO AMANDA'S SISTER,
NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED.

Christmas Day, 1742.

I BELIEVE I am in love with some one or all of you; for though you will not favour me with the scrape of a

* Those pretty lines of Thomson are still applicable to Bath, but the serious and beautiful moderation of the fair at Edinburgh, sets them above all criticism.
B. A.

pen, yet I cannot forbear writing to you again. Is it not, however, barbarous,—not to send me a few soft characters,—one pretty name to cheer my mind withal?

How easily some people might make others happy if they would!—But it is no small comfort to me, since you will not write, that I shall soon have the pleasure of being in your company; and then, though I were downright piqued, I shall forget it all in a moment.

I cannot help telling you of a very pleasing scene I lately saw :

In the middle of a green * there stands a peaceful lowly habitation, into which having entered, I beheld Innocence †; sweet Innocence! asleep. Your heart would have yearned, your eyes perhaps overflowed with tears of joy, to see how charming he looked,—like a young cherub dropt from heaven, if they be so happy as to have young cherubs there.—When awaked, it is not to be imagined with what complacency and ease, what soft serenity, altogether unmixed with the least cloud, he opened his eyes. He danced with joy in his nurse's arms. His eyes not only smiled, but laughed, and spoke. This put me in mind of a certain near relation of his whom I need not name.

“What delights thee so, thou lovely babe? Art thou thinking of thy mother's recovery ‡? Does some kind power impress upon thee a presage of thy future happiness under her tender care?” I touch'd him with unhallowed lips, and this restored me to the good opinion of the nurse, who had neither forgotten nor forgiven my having seemed to slight that favour once before.

While thus I gazed with sincere and virtuous satisfaction, I could most pathetically have addressed the gay wretches of the age, the joyless inmates of Bachelor's

* Richmond Green.

† The child of Amanda's sister,

‡ The mother was at Bath on account of indisposition.

Hall *, and was ready to repeat Milton's divine hymn on marriage :

Hail wedded love, mysterious law, true source
Of human offspring ! sole propriety
In Paradise of all things common else !
By thee adult'rous lust was driven from men,
Among the bestial herds to range ; by thee !
Founded on reason, loyal, just, and pure,
Relations dear, and all the charities
Of father, son, and brother, first were known † !

A MODEST EULOGIUM ON THE MINISTER.

TO bestow indiscriminate praise upon the minister of the day, discovers, not only a weakness of understanding, or meanness of spirit that are contemptible, but it is, besides, naturally productive of such bad consequences to the community, as to deserve the name of culpable conduct. For these reasons, this conduct has ever been severely animadverted on in this Miscellany. But if it be a meanness, ignorantly to applaud the conduct of the minister on all occasions, it is, on the other hand, still worse, it is wicked and unjust, and discovers a badness of heart to oppose him on all occasions ; and, whether he be right or wrong, to try to thwart his operations perpetually ; a regard for the interests of the community requires, that the conduct of those intrusted with power, should be scanned with the most cautious circumspection, so as to prevent, as much as possible, the abuses of that power ; but the same interests require that improper opposition to the servants of the crown, should be checked by the manly voice of reason ; because, if this be not done, the minister will be driven to the necessity of defending himself

* Bachelor's Hall, a house on Richmond green inhabited by unmarried gentlemen.

† Charming man ! though thou art dead, thou yet speakest.

Delightful pow'r of risual speech,
That from the hollow tomb can teach,
And make the voice of virtue reach
To everlasting days !

B. A.

by means of chicanery and corruption: The greatest evils that ever can prevail in the administration of any country.

The minister deserves not only to be protected from the effects of indiscriminate opposition to every measure,—his conduct requires to be viewed with a sympathetic lenity, which is ever disposed to make allowance for small errors, where the general intention appears to be upright; nor should he be severely censured, though abuses, that appear to us very glaring and absurd, be not reformed. Among the multiplicity of objects that perpetually demand his attention, it is not possible that he can examine each of them with the same degree of accuracy, as we are able to do the few that have attracted our particular attention. If they should even attract his notice, how difficult is it for him to attain the truth with respect to each! Those who step forward to give him information have usually some private end to serve, which they take care to conceal under the most specious pretexts. Conscious of this, he must necessarily listen to such proposals with diffidence, and though they appear fair and plausible, he must still be supposed to proceed with some degree of hesitation and distrust. In these circumstances, small obstructions thrown in the way are sufficient to stop even useful reforms; and if the abuses to be corrected be great, the obstructions that are thrown in the way, by those who have been long benefited by these abuses, are numerous and powerful. The efforts of a few men, whose undue emoluments are thus to be curtailed are strong, steady, and wonderfully diversified, while the exertions of the few who have no other view than the public weal, are proportionably feeble and desultory. In these circumstances, is it to be wondered at if the minister wishes to consult, in some measure, his own ease, by allowing many things to remain as they are, even when he is privately convinced in his own mind that they might admit of being altered for the better? Would not we do so if we were in his place?

If therefore a minister, regardless of the trouble, and the multiplied harassments to which it must subject him, shall set himself, at any time, seriously to inquire into the nature of certain long established abuses, which seem to retard the prosperity of the country, with a view to correct them, he will then deserve, and ought to obtain a very high degree of praise. Should his exertions to give the relief he aims at prove even unsuccessful, his merit will not be the less:

For he
That does the best, his circumstance allows,
Does well, acts nobly, angels could no more.

If unsuccessful in these efforts, a generous mind would even be disposed to bestow the greater degree of applause, because the minister would, in that case, have had a great deal of trouble, and would have incurred much private obloquy, without having the satisfaction of procuring that benefit to the public he aimed at.

On these principles, I feel great pleasure in having it in my power to bestow the most unequivocal applause on the minister of the present day, for his unwearied attention to a business of the greatest importance to this country, in which, I have good authority for saying, he has been seriously engaged for a considerable time past. The object that is in view is the greatest that can ever claim the attention of any minister, no less than the increasing the general wealth and prosperity of the whole kingdom, and consequently augmenting the amount of the national revenue, which must ever keep pace with it, to an astonishing degree. But at the same time it is a matter of so much intricacy to get a thorough view of the benefits to be derived from the measure intended, as to presuppose that a minister is possessed of no common talents, ever to be able so far to see these, as to become interested in the discussion; and the reform, if any shall ever take place, will so much affect the private interest of many individuals, who have long

battered upon the spoils of the public, that an opposition may be expected, too powerful even for the minister himself to withstand, unless the public shall warmly countenance the measure.

No longer to keep the reader in suspense, I have the satisfaction of saying, upon good authority, that the minister has it at present in contemplation, to take off the whole of the internal duties payable by the public on salt and coals. Whether he will be able to effect this great object, in the present state of our knowledge of political œconomy, is to me extremely doubtful. But if he shall succeed in it, I have no hesitation in saying, that he will add more to the prosperity of the kingdom than any acquisition of territory could ever confer, and will better deserve the praises of posterity, than all the generals, and all the admirals she ever possessed; and should he even fail in this attempt, the very memory of his having intended it, if it shall be clearly proven that he did so, will mark him more strongly in the eyes of posterity, as an able minister, than any other transaction in which he has hitherto had a share.

Such of my readers as have never adverted to this important question, will think that I greatly exaggerate; nor will it, I fear, be possible for me, in the short limits to which I am here confined, to convince them of the contrary; but I shall venture to mention a few facts, from the infinite number that might easily be stated, to prove that I speak even within the bounds of moderation.

Every person is sensible of the shocking iniquity of the coasting coal duty, which, by adding to the price of coals, that must at any rate be loaded with freight and charges of carriage, tends to raise the price of that important necessary of life extravagantly high in one place, in comparison of another; but few are acquainted with the great sums that this trifling duty obliges the purchasers

to pay, which in many cases amount to more than ten times what government draws; and fewer still are capable of making any estimation of the retardment to the progress of manufactures in various parts of the country, that this circumstance occasions, and consequently the universal check it gives to the industry of the people, and their internal prosperity. But these objects, though of prodigious moment, I must at present decline to enumerate, that I may find room to say a few words on the still more important business of the salt duty.

The fisheries on the coasts of Britain have been, for ages past, accounted an inexhaustible fund of wealth, of prosperity, and of strength to this nation. Many volumes have been written on this subject; infinite sums have been expended by adventurers in the fisheries, by government in premiums to encourage it, and by public spirited bodies of men effectually to establish that business; yet, in spite of all these great efforts, they are not at this moment an object of any importance, considered in a national view. And had the efforts been a hundred times greater, while our present salt laws shall be suffered to remain in force, it cannot be otherwise; for these laws as effectually preclude the only persons in this island, who ever can carry on the fisheries with profit, from engaging in that business, as a rope tied around the wrists and ancles of any person, would preclude him from the exercise of swimming. Sorry I am that I must here use a language that will to most of my readers appear to be enigmatical. The salt laws, *as they are executed in Scotland*, are such a mass of confusion and absurdity, as to be scarcely intelligible to any one, and would require a volume to display their ruinous and destructive tendency; nor will it be believed in England that the same laws could be so differently executed, as to make them *here* a system of the most cruel oppression while they are *there*, in as far

as respects the fisheries, scarcely felt as a grievance. But that it is so, the few following facts will tell ; nor can they be controverted.

The legislature of Great Britain has been long persuaded, that unless the salt employed in the fisheries shall be, allowed to go duty free, it would be impossible ever to bring fish cured by us to market, at such a price as to stand a competition with others. Salt to be employed in the fisheries is therefore exempted from duty. This indulgence was made to encourage the fisheries, but it has produced a directly opposite effect ; and it would be easy to show, that in the present state of a great part of Scotland, the fisheries could be much better carried on if no such exemption had been made ; for in order to prevent the *duty free* salt from being employed for other purposes than that of curing fish, such a multiplicity of perplexing regulations have been adopted, as puts it out of the power of all but one particular class of persons from engaging in the fisheries in any way.

With a view to prevent possible frauds, it is required that all salt to be employed in the fisheries must first be carried to a custom-house, where the owner of it must appear, and bring with him two sufficient sureties, who must sign a bond along with him, for a sum of money equal to *treble* the duties, to be forfeited, unless the salt itself, or fish in quantity sufficient to have consumed that salt, in certain proportions ascertained, shall be produced at that or some other custom-house, before a limited time mentioned in the bond.

When this is done, the owner of the salt is allowed to lodge it in a cellar, under the joint key of the custom-house officer and himself ; and before he can move a bushel of it from that cellar, he must apply to and obtain a warrant from the custom-house, to take out the precise quantity mentioned in the warrant, and no more, an offi-

cer attending to see this clause implemented. If he sells a bushel of it, the buyer of that must once more grant a fresh bond as before. If he means to carry it out to the fisheries, his permit bears that he may put it into such a vessel by name, out of which vessel he cannot remove it, even were it into another belonging to himself, without an order from the custom-house; or if he should do so, the vessel in which such salt is found, together with the cargo, are liable to be seized*.

Without entering into farther details respecting this very complicated business, I shall only beg the reader to remark a few of the consequences that necessarily result from the regulations here specified.

You may easily conceive an idea, that five or six poor men, who live upon the sea-coast, where herrings and other fish abound, could carry on that business with great œconomy, by uniting their little stocks together, to buy a few lines and nets, had they an opportunity of obtaining salt in small quantities as they found occasion for it, and were they at liberty to sell the fish they should thus cure, to the first person that offered to buy them. But if they can neither obtain the one, nor be permitted to sell the other, it is as much out of their power to catch fish for curing, as if they lived at a hundred miles distance from the sea. They cannot afford to purchase a boat, or nets, or lines, even for catching fish for their own consumption; so that they may be obliged to starve for want, where they might have had abundance.

* Many instances of forfeiture on this account occur. Mr James Macdonald in Portree in Skye, a man of enterprise and some capital, in the year 1788 had a vessel in this predicament, actually seized. The singularity of his case, as he lived at near 100 miles from a custom-house, prevailed at length, aided by the strong interposition of his friends, to get the vessel delivered back, but not till many months had elapsed, and much expence had been incurred, besides the loss of the whole season's fishing.

Such is exactly the situation of those numerous swarms of industrious poor, who are obliged to seek refuge in foreign countries from the idleness and want which it produces on the western coasts of Scotland. There are many instances of men on these coasts, who, impelled by a spirit of enterprise, have unadvisedly ventured their little stock in the fisheries, and have been ruined by it. How were they ruined you ask? The final catastrophe is various, arising from circumstances, but in all cases of this sort, it is almost inevitable. A man who lives, we shall suppose, at fifty miles from a custom-house, (and many places are more than an hundred miles from one,) finds himself in an excellent fishing station. He must go to that custom-house with his two sureties, to bond his salt. Where is a poor man to find such sureties? This bar ties up the hands of many. Where is he to find money to pay for his salt? This bar ties up the hands of a much greater number. These difficulties overcome, he must carry home a custom-house officer, at his own expence, to see the salt lodged in his ware-house. Before he can take it from thence, he must go or send to the custom-house for an order to take it out, and must bring again that custom-house officer to see the quantity taken out *. If he

* If he even does send to the custom-house, he is not certain that his requisition will be complied with, as the following case fully shows. Mr Ross, a respectable man at *Inver*, in Ross-shire, had a quantity of bonded salt, thus lodged in his ware-houses in the year 1782. He lives from 40 to 50 miles distant from the nearest custom-house. A great quantity of herrings came unexpectedly upon that coast, while he himself was absent. Express, upon express, was sent to the custom-house officer at Lochbroom, to give out the salt; but this gentleman having conceived some pique at Mr. Ross, refused to come or send to give out the salt; many days elapsed in sending these repeated expresses in vain; in the mean while many millions of herrings were caught, and obliged thus to lie rotting in great heaps on the shore. When Mr Ross returned, and found things in this situation, he, in a rage, broke open the door of his ware-house, and took out the salt

catches fish, and finds himself straitened for food, or his neighbour starving, who would willingly purchase some of them from him, he neither dares consume a morsel of what was cured with that salt, himself, nor dispose of it to another. Before he can do this, he must carry the fish to the custom-house, and enter them there, after which only he can be permitted to eat them. The expence of doing this, may be ten times the value of his fish; yet this must be done, or his salt bond will be put in suit in the court of Exchequer in Edinburgh, and the penalty forfeited *. Not only is he obliged thus to send his fish to the custom-house, which, in some cases, might be so far on its way to a market; but if any of his salt be left, he must send that also thither, however small in quantity, or the same forfeiture of the salt bond awaits him †. It is need-

himself. Mr Ross happens to be a man of property, and deservedly much respected in that country, and therefore he was not prosecuted; but had he been a poor man, the expences he would have been made to incur on account of this trespass would have ruined him. These facts were fully authenticated to the commissioners of salt duties, but no punishment was inflicted upon the officer who committed such a flagrant crime in the discharge of his duty. *Ex pede—*

* The species of servitude to which the poor fishers in Shetland, and other remote parts of the coast, are subjected, of which so many men have loudly complained, is a necessary consequence of this arrangement, and it must continue, in spite of any law to the contrary, as long as these regulations concerning salt are in force. It is indeed the only possible way in which poor men at present can possibly engage in the fisheries at all. It is men of property, alone, who can buy and manage the complicated business of bonded salt; and is it to be supposed that they can venture that property in such ticklish circumstances, in the hands of poor persons, who have no security to offer, without employing great precautions to insure against loss? It is the salt laws, and these alone, that are the cause of this system of oppression.

† A case was lately stated in this miscellany, vol. vi. p 208. in which a man thus incurred five pounds expence, on account of five bushels of salt; many such do not occur, because such examples deter wise men from venturing on such ruinous enterprises.

less to proceed in this melancholy tale ; any person can foresee the result : The expences thus incurred are enormous ; the trouble to which the unwary adventurer is exposed, is inconceivable ; and in every case where this is attempted, without a large capital, ruin is almost inevitable *. In consequence of this, nine hundred and ninety-nine, out of a thousand of these people, are condemned to listless idleness, who, if they were only allowed to buy salt, and sell salted fish with perfect freedom, would be busily employed in the most active exertions of industry ; and by whom fish could be caught and brought to market, at less than half the price they ever can be afforded for in any other way. It is evident that lowness of price, and that alone, can open up a market for our fisheries sufficiently extensive ever to render this an object of great national importance. It is the wealth that is to flow from this *general* diffusion of industry, that is to lay the foundations of agriculture, of manufactures, and of commerce in those regions. It is these employments that are to augment the population ; and it is this increase of population and of wealth, that is to raise the duties upon all

* A gentleman of great property in the Highlands lately, whose name is here suppressed merely out of respect, with a view to encourage some adventurous fishers on his estate, took a share in a fishing adventure with them. The commissioners, under some frivolous pretext, respecting the salt, stopped a vessel with the fish when they were ready to go to market. The gentleman, who himself was bred to the law, was satisfied the commissioners interpreted the act wrong. He remonstrated to them, but in vain. He then wrote to the commissioners of salt duties in England, desiring to know in what manner they explained the clause of the act in question. They understood it exactly as he had done. He then wrote again to the Board in Scotland, desiring them, in a peremptory manner, to say if they adhered to their former decision, as he was determined, in that case, to apply elsewhere for redress. They then were pleased to let it pass. But it was too late. The fish were, before that time entirely useless and had lost their market.

articles of consumption to a great height, and thus to augment the revenue to an inconceivable degree, without any new impositions; and all this is to be effected merely by a repeal of the salt and coal duties, which both together do not, according to Sir John Sinclair's accurate statement, net above L. 18,000 a-year in Scotland.

The minister who can comprehend the vast importance of such an arrangement, and who arduously desires to forward it, deserves a high degree of praise; yet these are but a part of the benefits that would accrue to this country from this judicious measure. Many are the branches of industry to which this would give a beginning. Many manufactures that are not now thought of, and never can be practised without it, would be by this means called into existence; but the subject is too great to admit of being entered on at present.

I shall only here farther remark, that these regions, when their value comes to be adverted to, will be found to be more peculiarly calculated for manufactures, than any other part of the British dominions, upon the plan that must now be universally adopted, by machinery. For weighty articles the communication can be carried so far inland, either upon roads perfectly level, or by water carriage, as can scarcely be equalled in any other place; and the frequent streams of water, pouring down on either side of these vallies, from an immense height, give them almost an unlimited power for turning machinery. Add to this that the hills on every side will quickly be covered with sheep, which will yield to the people, when they can afford to pay for it, abundance of animal food at a cheap rate, and the wool will furnish inexhaustible materials for the best and the most certain staple article in this kingdom. The importance of this subject hurries me too far, and here I must pause for the present.

Acknowledgements to correspondents deferred till our next.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4. 1792.

ON THE POLITICAL PROGRESS OF BRITAIN.

Continued from p. 48.

'Tis time to take enormity by the forehead and brand it.

BEN JOHNSON.

SIR,

THE English merchants abused their permission of a partial trade to the coast of Spanish America. "The agents of the British South Sea company, under cover of the importation, which they were authorised to make by the ship sent annually to Porto Bello, poured in their commodities on the Spanish continent, without limitation or restraint. Instead of a ship of five hundred tons, as stipulated in the treaty, they usually employed one which exceeded nine hundred tons in burden. She was accompanied by two or three smaller vessels, which, mooring in some neighbouring creek, supplied her clandestinely with fresh bales of goods, to replace such as were sold. The inspectors of the fair, and officers of the revenue, gained by exorbitant presents, con-

"nived at the fraud. Thus, partly by the opera-
 "tions of the company, and partly by the activity
 "of private interlopers, almost the whole trade of
 "Spanish America was ingrossed by foreigners.
 "The immense commerce of the galleons, formerly
 "the pride of Spain, and the envy of other nations,
 "sunk to nothing, and the squadron itself, reduced
 "from fifteen thousand to two thousand tons, serv-
 "ed hardly any purpose, but to fetch home the royal
 "revenue arising from the fifth on silver*." This
 rascally conduct produced incessant quarrels; and,
 on the part of Spain, these were embittered by the re-
 tention of Jamaica, Minorca, and Gibraltar, in defiance
 of every principle of justice. At last on the 14th Ja-
 nuary 1738, it was agreed, by a convention, that
 Spain should pay to our merchants, in full of all de-
 mands, ninety-five thousand pounds. Some farther
 difficulties arose about the payment of this petty
 sum; and Walpole, himself, seems to have been al-
 most the single person in England, who had sense
 enough to foresee the sequel of an open rupture.
 The whole nation were impatient for blood and plun-
 der, and the minister was compelled to commence
 hostilities. To the war with Spain, there was added,
 in 1744, a war with France, and in 1745, a Scotch
 rebellion. A notable scheme to recover ninety-five
 thousand pounds! The Scotch rebels were defeated at
 Culloden, by the duke of Cumberland, and military

* Robertson's history of America B. viii. Nobody can be sorry to
 hear what Dr Robertson tells us, that, "The company itself sus-
 "tained a considerable loss by the *Asiento* trade. Many of its servants ac-
 "quired immense fortunes." Such is the natural progress of knavery.

ferocity exhibited its utmost horror. " Since the
 " contest between the houses of York and Lancaster,
 " no such scene of BLOOD and PROSCRIPTION had
 " ever followed any rebellion in Britain *." His royal
 highness was received at London with transports of
 joy, and " the Commons, by bill, added *twenty-five*
" thousand pounds per annum, to his revenue†." In
 the month of May 1746, he returned to Scotland,
 where every step of his progress was marked with
 desolation.

After such a dreadful exercise of victory, we cannot be surprised that North America made a desperate resistance.

In the year 1747, " the new House of Commons,
 " in imitation of the *liberality* of their predecessors,
 " readily *gratified all the requests of government*.
 " They voted forty thousand seamen, *forty-nine*
" thousand land forces, besides eleven thousand five
 " hundred marines, the subsidies for the queen of
 " Hungary, the Czarina, the king of Sardinia, the
 " electors of Mentz and Bavaria, the Hessians, and
 " the duke of Wolfenbuttle. The sum of two
 " hundred and thirty-five thousand seven hundred
 " and forty-nine pounds was granted to the provin-
 " ces of New England, to reimburse them for the ex-
 " pence of reducing Cape Breton; five hundred thou-
 " sand pounds were given to his majesty for the vigo-

* Arnot's history of Edinburgh p. 120.

† Smollet vol. xi. p. 238. He lived to enjoy this pension for upwards of twenty years, and, including *five per cent.* of compound interest, the payments which he actually received would, at this day, exceed TWO MILLIONS STERLING.

rous prosecution of the war; and about one hundred and fifty-two thousand pounds to the Scottish claimants, in lieu of their *jurisdiction*. The supplies for the ensuing year fell very little short of NINE millions*." Denmark had also for several years enjoyed a subsidy of seventy thousand pounds, but in 1742, refused to continue the treaty. We had also, in 1741, proposed to take the Swedes into our service, but they rejected our advances. About the beginning of the year 1744, the king of *Poland*, likewise, entered into an alliance with England, and did us the honour of *guaranteeing* our dominions, as if we ourselves had been inadequate to their defence. For his *concurrence*, we paid him an annual subsidy of an hundred thousand pounds†. After such work, is it wonderful that we are now harnessed in debts and taxes, like horses in a carriage? Is it not in the course of divine justice, that after a series of insane outrages on the rest of Europe, we are at last completely shackled in fetters forged by our crimes? Were it possible to discharge but one-fourth part of the public burdens in the course of this year, a second would not elapse till the mere lust of mischief would drive us into some foreign quarrel. The scene of butchery lasted for almost nine years till October 1748, and at an expence to this country of sixty or eighty millions sterling; that is to say, at an expence, at least six or eight hundred times greater than the whole sum pretended to be in dispute. One of the least shocking events which it produced, was, that an English man of war, with an admiral and

* Smollet vol. xi. p. 297. † Ibid.

eleven hundred choice seamen sunk in a storm. The reverend historian of Anson's voyage, as a consolation to the reader for the disasters which pursued it, has recorded the horrid fate of the Spanish squadron, dispatched to repel its depredations. He describes, with a tone of triumph, the burning of Païta, an action which the Spaniard Ulloa has branded with its deserved infamy. Yet relative to the war, even this mean example of barbarity is less than a spark in the blaze of destruction. The capture of the Manilla galleon has dazzled the mob, though, laying humanity out of the question, and fairly computing the price, which by the destruction of ships and seamen she actually cost us, it must appear, that we had better have honestly purchased her cargo upon credit, at an interest of two hundred *per cent* *. As a compensation for the slaughter of perhaps three hundred

* In the war of 1775, John Paul, a native of Galloway, in the south of Scotland, having fled his country for murder, obtained the command of an American privateer, and assumed the well known name of Paul Jones. In the course of his adventures he made an attempt to burn the shipping in the harbour of Whitehaven, and hence we are in the habit of mentioning him with reproach. It is difficult to see much distinction between the conduct of Jones and of Anson; and the balance turns in favour of the former. By the burning of Païta the British nation could gain nothing; and it was, therefore, a wanton act of mischief; but when Jones entered the harbour of Whitehaven, it contained an hundred and fifty sail of shipping, and the destruction of such a mass of property would have been felt as a severe blow to the commerce of this country. Besides, Jones might have pled the right of retaliation; for we were, at that very time, burning the towns and villages of the North Americans; and Burgoyne, and other assassins of the same description, were bribing the savages with brandy to cut their throats. [ANBURY'S TRAVELS, *passim*.] The inhabitants of Whitehaven, also, were active and hearty in the cause of government; but the poor people of Païta had injured or offended nobody. Anson's buccaneers had driven them out of their beds, and strip-

166 *political progress of Britain.* April 4:
 thousand of our fellow citizens, our historians comfort us with an assurance, that our conquerors had no reason to rejoice in their victory. By the destruction of several men of war, and the loss of a few capital ships, only, it has been boasted, that Spain suffered damage to the extent of twelve millions sterling. This, however, could be but a small part of her total loss, and, as to France, her foreign commerce was almost absolutely extirpated. We may, therefore, hope, that three hundred thousand industrious French families were reduced to beggary. At Fontenoy our allied army lost "about twelve thousand men*." But we have the satisfaction of hearing that "the victory cost the French *"almost an equal number of lives†;"* a circumstance of

ped them of their effects. What Anson could not carry off he wanted to sell, and the Portugals would not or could not satisfy his demands; on which, in a fit of revenge, he set the place on fire, and his worthy chaplain exults in observing, *that the flames spread with the utmost rapidity.* A man must have a heart of iron, whose blood is not ready to curdle at such stories. If Anson was right in burning Païta, could Jones have been to blame for burning Leith or Whitehaven?

Anson, himself, was as brave and respectable an officer as ever trode a deck; and, therefore, these remarks are levelled not at the character of the individual, but of the profession. In every war, a thousand events occur more shocking than even what happened at Païta; but when the reader has once acquired the habit of beholding them in the proper point of view, the application is easy, and he will be induced to contemplate the whole with regret and detestation.

The public may be offended at the comparison between an English commodore, and a person whom we are pleased to call a regeador. Let us speak for them elves. Captain Jones was compelled by his crew to carry off the silver plate from the house of a Scotch nobleman. If he had a future opportunity to restore it. Did Anson make any such restitution?

* Smollet vol. xi p. 204. † Ibid.

the most rational exultation. We have printed whole libraries in this benevolent style, and we are amazed when foreigners ridicule and detest us. Dr Smollet closes a summary of the conduct and consequences of this quarrel in these words: "What then
" were the fruits which Britain reaped from this
" long and desperate war? A dreadful expence of
" blood and treasure, disgrace upon disgrace, an
" additional load of grievous impositions, and the
" national debt accumulated to the enormous sum of
" eighty millions sterling."

From the Revolution it was now sixty years, and of these we have seen that *thirty-three* were employed in fighting. Our crusades had cost us, at least, five hundred thousand lives, and two hundred millions sterling. As the total reward of these murderous and convulsive efforts, we had obtained, or confirmed, our title to Gibraltar, Minorca, Nova Scotia, and Hudson's bay. Thus each of these *inestimable* possessions had, at an average, been preserved by the loss of *an hundred and twenty-five thousand lives*, and *fifty millions sterling*. The reader may believe or not, as he pleases, that they were worth such a price. The political system of Britain may be justly compared with the adventures of a street bully, spending four days of the week on a boxing stage, and the rest of it in an excise court or a correction house.

There was, indeed, *another* advantage obtained in the above period, which merits a paragraph by itself. "As an inducement that might prevail with
" queen Anne to conclude the peace of Utrecht, Phi-

“lip v. conveyed to Britain the *Afsiento*, or contract
 “for supplying the Spanish colonies with negroes,
 “which had formerly been *enjoyed* by France*.”
 What a strange source of ENJOYMENT! While millions of acres in this island were lying waste, or at best were but half cultivated; while, as the poet says,

The world was all before us where to chuse

Our place of rest,

we accepted, as the price of our blood and our victories, an employment of the basest, the most pestiferous, and brutal description; an employment, compared to which that of a common pirate is innocence itself! and that of a common executioner is even the summit of human dignity! With a meanness, which had no temptation, and which has, I believe, no paralell in history, we accepted of an employment which our vanquished enemies disdained to perform; an employment where every step was to be marked with treachery and murder, and which neither Cato nor Phocion could have exercised for a single day without deserving a halter. What must our posterity say or feel at the reproach of having descended from such abominable ancestors? It is time to despise the flimsy refinements of false politeness. Let us forbear to hoodwink our understandings, nor let us, like the fabled daughters of Pelias, avert our eyes while plunging the dagger of parricide. Let us look boldly into the face of this bloody business, and read, in the immortal characters

* Robertson's history of America B. viii. It is painful to observe, that some of our neighbours, have neither more sense nor humanity than ourselves.

of truth, the black volume of our enormities. As to the Spanish contract in question, were a lord chancellor of England to claim the office of Jack Ketch, he would make a less abrupt and disgraceful descent from his proper dignity. He would certainly be sent to bedlam; but, alas! there is no bedlam large enough to contain *all* the lunatics of a nation.

After such a review, let us frankly confess with Dr Swift, that our modern history "contains NOTHING but the very worst effects which avarice*, faction, hypocrisy, perfidiousness, cruelty, rage, madness, hatred, envy, lust, malice, or ambition can produce."

I conclude for the present with an observation which I once heard from the ever-memorable father of our village: "Our political and commercial systems" said his lordship, "are evidently nonsense. We possess within this single island, every production both of art and nature, which is necessary for the most comfortable enjoyment of domestic life; yet, for the sake of tea, and sugar, and tobacco, and a few other despicable luxuries, we have rushed into an abyss of blood and taxes. The boasted extent of our trade, and the quarrels and public debts which attend it, have raised the natural price of bread, and even of grass, at least *'sixty per cent.!'*" I am, &c.

Laurence Kirk.

March 18. 1792.

TIMOTHY THUNDERPROOF.

* Our great duke of Marlborough, for such we continue to call him, was told to his face in the House of Peers, that he sacrificed his officers to desperate assaults for the sake of selling their commissions.

Vide Smollet's history

Remarks on the above.

THE Editor has admitted the spirited lucubrations of this correspondent with pleasure, because they tend to point out, in strong colours, the mischievous tendency of those warlike operations in which Great Britain, since ever it was a nation, has been eager to engage. But Britain is, in this respect, like all other nations. France, Spain, Portugal, Prussia, Denmark, Sweden, Russia, and all other kingdoms, when they have had the power, have invariably pursued the same plan; and the world, in consequence of this savage propensity to war, has exhibited such a scene of rapine and devastation, that a superior being, who was a spectator of it, without being actuated by human prejudices, would be at a loss to say, whether man should be most abominated for the atrocity of his actions, or contemned for the folly of his enterprises. Nations for the most part go to war for that, which, if obtained, would prove very prejudicial to them; and, after expending as much money on each side, as would have purchased the fee simple of the whole object in question, a hundred times over, they are both at last glad to lay hold of any trifling pretext to close the fruitless dispute. The war between Russia and the Porte, just now concluded, is a striking instance of this; and, by a careful analysis, it would be found that every other war in modern times had been nearly the same.

Had my ingenious correspondent thought proper to explain his general position, by illustrations taken from the history of all nations, it would have less

shocked the national vanity of my British readers, than the mode he has chosen of selecting his illustrations from British story only. We cannot, at once, bring ourselves to consider a character as barbarous, which our nurses taught us to view as a pattern of excellence. In this way many will be shocked at hearing lord Anson paralleled with Paul Jones. But surely it is a meritorious thing to eradicate prejudices of every sort. It is peculiarly meritorious to attempt to extirpate this warlike prejudice from the nation; because, so long as it shall prevail among the *people*, where the government is so democratical as ours, the wisest minister that ever existed has it not in his power to save them from this kind of suicide, in which they compel him to become an accessary.

While the prejudices of the nursery remain, I could not, therefore, be much surprised at receiving some animadversions on these papers, *but* I own I have been much surprised at finding that some of my correspondents imagine, the efforts of Mr Thunder-proof are directed against the present minister*. The present minister, no more than those of former times, does he respect. In this particular, every impartial person will say he does well. But I have not been able to perceive in this performance, a tendency to vilify the character, or to detract from the just merits of Mr Pitt or any other man. If I had, they should not have found admission into this Miscellany. To expose faults in administration, that existed long be-

* Some correspondents of reputable talents and amiable dispositions, who have objected to these papers, are not included in the class above specified.

fore the present minister was born; cannot surely be considered as an attack upon him. It is only prejudice that can induce any person to think so. The time was, when any attempt to expose errors in government was considered as treason; but these days are gone. Government is only of use in as far as it tends to prevent the abuses that strength and power would naturally produce in society; but as strength and power are, for wise purposes, entrusted with administration in a more eminent degree than to any individual, it follows, that more care is required to guard against abuses there than any where else. To point out those abuses, therefore, when done with candour and judgement, instead of being accounted a crime, ought to be deemed highly meritorious. It is in such exercises as this that the mind acquires strength and vigour. No person who has not been accustomed to view objects in different lights, can ever be said to know them. Bacon did more in favour of science, by destroying the veneration for *names* that prevailed before his time, than by all his discoveries; and the world has been more indebted to Luther, and the reformers, than we are willing to allow, for teaching mankind to consider *man*, in every station of life, as no more than man. Let us pay respect to dignities; but let us never forget that the most dignified object on earth is the human mind, when exerting its energies, unshackled by prejudice, unconscious of error, and undaunted by fear.

A VOYAGE TO THE HEBRIDES.

*Continued from p. 39.**Isle of Mull July 1.*

IN the ride on Saturday along the south banks of the sound of Mull, we observed land, highly capable of cultivation, to be in a state of nature; and in the ride this day across the island, through beautiful vallies, there was room for the same observation. With the exception of carrying a little shelly sand, nothing in the way of improving the soil has been attempted. Corn will not answer on account of the rains, but potatoes, grafs, and all manner of garden stuffs, are produced in great perfection. The climate is mild and moist. The soil seems in many places rich. In all of a sharp, kindly quality. Some natural brushwood forces its way *in spite of the cattle's teeth*. But there are not ten planted trees in an island, where many millions might be planted, on ground fit for little else. The island is principally occupied by tacksmen; a farm here exceeds the dimensions of an estate elsewhere, as a parish does that of a county.

Took leave of the duke of Argyll, who returned to Inverary. The rest of the party rode on the horses of the country, small, strong, sure footed garrons, across the middle of the island to Torloisk, the seat of Mr Maclean, where he has built an elegant house, made out a pleasant garden, and planted some trees. The ride was twelve miles of a very rugged road.

July 2. A little rain in the night, but fine by nine o'clock. Rode out to see a fishing station on Mr Maclean's estate, called Kelmichael near a Danish ruin. A fine road for ships, and a pretty boat harbour; gathered some good oysters among the rocks at low water.

Received a signed proposal from Mr Maclean to grant the society a feu, on very reasonable terms, of that and part of another farm, 200 acres of extent. It is to be feared when the sea-banks, road-stead, and harbour, shall be surveyed by persons of skill, it may not be found suitable to the views of the society. The situation as to land, and centralness for the conveniency of the island is unexceptionable. July 3. Remained here all day, weather warm, rain and fog. Seaforth and Coll joined us here in their vessels this evening. July 4. Left Torloisk at eleven A. M. sailed to Staffa. Saw it to advantage. Let no man pretend to be curious who has not seen Staffa. Dined on the island, slept at Seaforth, in the house of Mr Campbell a tacksman in Mull. Seaforth and company, with professor Thorkelin, went from Staffa in their boat to Icolumbkiln.

5th July. This morning lord Breadalbane's vessel and our cutter, the Prince of Wales, came in sight, and also captain Macleod of Herries, in his elegant yacht, a square rigged vessel of considerable size and conveniently fitted up; Seaforth in his yacht, appeared in the offing; sailed for Cannay harbour. The duke of Argyll owns a large estate in Mull. Mr Maclean of Lochbuy, Mr Maclean of Coll, and Torloisk are also considerable proprietors. The rents of the whole may be about L. 4000 a-year, to which kelp greatly

contributes. The farms are occupied by tacksmen, gentlemen in every respect; most of them have served in the army or navy, or in the fencible regiments, and are related to the proprietors. The gardening is not much studied, and the summer has been cold; we ate good strawberries and green pease. The duke of Argyll has forbidden subtenants. The other proprietors have not. It is the condition of the subtenants that is least to be envied in the Highlands. They are bound to cut, carry, and dry the tacksmen's peat. This, and their own, engrosses their time and labour from the middle of May until the middle of July, the most precious season for fallowing their land and fetching manures. It is said there is limestone in the sound of Calve near Tobermory, and also in the south western part of the island called the Rosses. Here is said, also, to be natural basaltic columns, like those at Staffa. It is also said there has been coal found at Loch Allyne, or the beautiful loch, which communicates with the sound of Mull, on the opposite or Morven side of the sound. Free-stone very scarce; all is whin-stone. Captain Pierce put out lines and caught a good many cod and ling. Reached Cannay at four o'clock P. M. and were joined at eight by captain Macleod of Herries in his brig. A ling brought on board $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, weight 44 lib.;—a shilling asked for it, because we were strangers to the price of fish there. Foggy and rainy all day. Visited by Mr Macneal tacksman of Cannay, at whose house some of the party slept.

Cannay island.

July 6. Were informed repositories for salt must be on the ground-floor paved with brick. Cannay

harbour is one of the finest in the Hebrides, about half a mile in length, shelving from eight to fourteen feet, and from thence to the beach the ground is good sand and clay, mixed. It is capable of containing about fifty sail of all kinds of vessels. It has an outlet to the east and west, so that fishers can go out in all seasons. The sea round abounds with cod, ling, and mullet; herrings are frequent round it, and a considerable quantity of fish are actually caught here now. Mr Macneal thinks a fishing station might be advantageously placed here, and would have no objection to co-operate with the society in establishing one. Beside the larger fish and herrings, without the harbour, the harbour itself swarms with a smaller kind of fish, about the size of haddocks. They are called *scythes* or *whiting pollock*, very useful for the maintenance of the people. They are often taken in small bag-nets; and, after taking out the livers for their oil, the rest of the fish are carried to the dunghill. Two hundred of them were taken last night by the cutter's boat; but the larger fish of the same kind carried off all their hooks. Seaforth strongly of opinion a society's fishing station should be established here, where a small embankment would suffice for unloading boats, which, with a few houses for holding salt, and huts for the fishers, and lots of land for farther building round the harbour, would be all the expence the experiment would cost the society.

A great many sun-fish or basking sharks are taken in these seas. The liver is oily, and the only part of the fish that is made use of. Went to see one which they said is

small ;—it is twenty feet long,—a very strong fish, much the shape of the shark, except the head and mouth ; but not of its disposition, being far from voracious or dangerous ;—its skin rough like shagreen. When cut to the bone, the outward part seemed like fish, but the inward, near the bone, like flesh,—certainly eatable. In Iceland ropes are made of the skin which is tough and strong. In the evening went a syeth-fishing with rods, lines, and hooks. The bait a white feather. Took in half an hour about 100, hooking them as fast as we could throw in the lines. Some as large as twelve or fifteen pounds ; the medium about one pound and a half. They come to the surface, put their heads above the water, and make what is called a *play* of fish. The water bubbles as if it boiled, and this is the fishers guide. The herrings make a *play* of the same kind. On Sandy Island, which forms one side of the harbour, the party discovered a seam of coal cropping out to the surface ; it did not exceed an inch in thickness ;—gathered a basketful of the coal,—it burnt very well. Encouragement to try for a better vein of coal, or to pursue the same. Heard also coal had been discovered in Mull. It would probably be easier to find coal here, than to get the coal tax repealed or commuted : Natural difficulties are sometimes easier to overcome than political ones, especially of the tax kind.

7th July. In Cannay there are about three hundred inhabitants, all Roman Catholics, a sober, quiet, industrious race, and not contemptible fishers, especially of the sun-fish *. The island, above six miles

* The first sun-fish that was ever caught on these coasts was by a native of Cannay, on the shore of this island, about twenty years ago. An

round, beautiful to the eye, abounding with good land, and exquisite pasture, very improveable. Mr Maclean has built a neat house of four rooms on a floor, two stories high. Its situation, facing the south and fronting the harbour, very pleasant;—is building a corn mill to go by water. The corn hitherto all ground in quearns. He is sole tacksman. Many of the inhabitants must leave the island.

Memorandum.

To make Cannay important, 1. The society to accept of Clanronald's offer of a grant of land near the harbour.

2. To carry out a little pier, and to build a few warehouses for salt and stores.

3. To provide lime, slate, and wood.

4. To advance these articles to all persons intending to build houses; the interest of their price to be added to the yearly rent of the houses. The lots for houses, thirty feet front, three hundred deep.

The day fine till the evening. All night it rained hard. Wind due N.

8th July, Wind all contrary but the day fine. Walked out,—examined magnet rock. A compass placed upon it veers to the east and stops there. In passing it in a boat, the compass veers and shifts, at last fixes to the east. The rock extends from the harbour half a mile into the island; said, ridiculously, to be the biggest loadstone in the known world. Ruins of a considerable old castle behind the harbour. At a little distance from thence the rocks are all columnar, like Staffa, and very curious were they not so near Staffa.

To be continued.

adventurous undertaking at that time, when they were ignorant of every thing that respects this fish, but its bulk and strength.

EXERCISES IN PRACTICAL GRAMMAR.

Continued from p. 282. vol. vii.

THE following examples may serve as a specimen of the manner in which I think words ought to be explained.

A Dictionary.

TO MELT, v. To liquefy solid bodies by the application of heat, without the intervention of any fluid medium. It has some relation to the word *dissolve*. For the distinctions, see *dissolve*.

TO DISSOLVE, v. To liquefy a solid object through the medium of a fluid body applied to it, nearly connected with the word to *melt*. Lead, iron, or other metals, tallow, wax, &c. are *melted* by the application of heat alone. Salt and sugar are *dissolved* when put into water in due proportions. Here we have the discriminating idea which distinguishes these words on all occasions with the utmost precision, and it ought never to be lost sight of in using either of the words.

In some cases *dissolving* and *melting* are so similar in appearance, that they have been confounded, and the words of course indiscriminately applied by inaccurate writers *ex. gr.* ice, when it is reduced to water by heat, is *melted*, not *dissolved*; but, during that process, the pieces of ice float in the water, in a manner so similar to that of lumps of sugar in the same medium, and gradually disappear, so much in the same way, that few persons have any difficulty in saying that the ice *dissolves*, in the same manner as the sugar; but this is an inaccuracy of expression. Ice is water in every respect, except the modification of its

form, alone, nor can a particle of ice, after it is melted into water, be ever separated from the other particles of water. But sugar is a different substance from water, and may be again recovered in its distinct state, by the aid even of heat. The one is, therefore, *melted*, and the other *dissolved*.

Again, when sugar, or other saline bodies, that naturally attract moisture, are exposed to a damp atmosphere, they gradually imbibe water from it, and are converted into a fluid mass, by a process, precisely in appearance the same as that which takes place when snow is converted into water by the influence of a warm air. The snow in this case *melts*; and inaccurate observers have thought the sugar *melts* also,—it only *dissolves*. We cannot, therefore, in this case say, *melted* sugar, nor *dissolved* snow; exact precision requires that we should say *melted* snow and *dissolved* sugar.

FROST, n. A general term denoting that state of the atmosphere in which bodies containing water are rendered stiff, in consequence of the water being converted from a fluid into a solid state.

The word *frost* never properly denotes the solid particles of water itself, (unless under the particular modification of it called *hoar-frost*,) for frozen water is called *ice*. It has only reference to the effects produced upon other bodies, by the congelation of the watery particles with which they are necessarily or accidentally connected.

TO FREEZE v. Denotes that operation of nature by which water is changed from a fluid into a solid state; and is, precisely, when the water alone is

considered, the reverse of *to melt*; but the word *to freeze* has reference to water only. When other objects than mere water are adverted to, it denotes the change produced upon them, by that kind of stiffening which is usually experienced when the watery particles connected with them are congealed. No other bodies but those which are susceptible of this kind of stiffening can be said to be frozen. See *thaw*.

FROSTED, adj. Never respects water, but is only applicable to vegetable or other substances, living animals excepted, whose texture is destroyed by that degree of cold which is capable of freezing water,—as a frosted potatoe, a frosted turnip, &c.

FROST-BITTEN, adj. Chiefly applies to live animals. When animal life, itself, is suspended in consequence of cold, or when the texture of some of the members are destroyed, so as to drop off or become inserviceable, in consequence of being subjected to a very severe degree of cold, they are said to be *frost-bitten*.

By a small extension of the meaning common in all languages, this word is also employed when it is meant to denote that the small twigs of trees are killed by cold.

We have no word that can be employed as a perfect contrast to *frosted* and *frost-bitten*; because the objects cannot, when once destroyed, be again restored to their former state.

To THAW, v. Denotes the change that takes place when the effects of frost upon bodies disappear, after the air becomes so mild as to liquefy ice.

This word, though it might appear to be in some respects the same with *to melt*, is yet extremely different. *To melt* applies to all bodies in nature that are capable of being liquefied by heat; *to thaw* has a reference only to the liquefaction of water. *To melt* refers only to the bodies themselves that are susceptible of being liquefied; *to thaw* refers in general to all objects that are capable of being affected by water in its two different states of fluidity and solidity. A piece of linen, for example, has been rendered stiff by means of frost, and is then said to be *frozen*; when the air becomes mild, the linen becomes pliable; we then say it is *thawed*. The water that was frozen upon the linen, and rendered it stiff, is now *melted*; we, therefore, say the ice is *melted*, but we can only say the linen is *thawed*.

In the same manner vegetables of any kind, or animal substances, which are rendered stiff by frost, are said to be *frozen*; and, when that stiffness is taken off, are said to be *thawed*, though no appearance of *melting* water, in either of these cases, should take place.

THAW, s. Is, therefore, employed as a general term to denote that state of the atmosphere in which bodies, that have been stiffened by frost, are gradually relieved from its effects, and restored to the state they assume in the usual temperature of the atmosphere.

IMMEDIATELY adv. of time.

I. Instantly, without delay. Always employed to denote future time and never past. Thus we may say, I will come *immediately*; but not, I am *immediately* come from such a place. See *presently*.

2. Without the intervention of any cause or event ; as opposed to *mediately*.

PRESENTLY, adv. of time.

1. Instantly, without delay. Exactly synonymous with *immediately* ; being never with propriety employed to denote any thing but future time.

2. Formerly it was employed to express present time. Thus, the house *presently* possessed by such a one, was often used ; but this is now become a vicious expression ; and we ought to say, the house possessed at *present*. It differs from *immediately* in this, that even in the most corrupt phrases it never can denote past time.

FORM, s. The external appearance of any object, when considered only with respect to shape and figure. This term, therefore, in the literal sense, can only be applied to the objects of the sight and touch ; and is nearly synonymous with *figure* ; but they differ in some respects. *Form* may be employed to denote more rude and unfinished shapes ; *figure*, those which are more perfect and regular. *Form* can never be employed without denoting matter ; whereas *figure* may be employed in the abstract : Thus we say a square or triangular *figure*, but not a square or triangular *form*. And in the same way we say the *figure* of a house ; but we must denote the substance of which it consists if we use the word *form* ; as a cloud, of the *form* of a house, &c. See *figure*.

2. In contrast to irregularity or confusion. As beauty cannot consist without order, it is, by a figure of speech, used to denote beauty, order, &c.

3. As *form* respects only the external appearance of bodies, without regard to their internal qualities, it is, by a figure of speech, employed, in contrast to these qualities, to denote empty show, without essential qualities. In this sense it is often taken when applied to religious ceremonies, &c.

4. As *form* is employed to denote the external appearance of bodies ; so, in a figurative sense, it is applied to reasoning, denoting the particular mode or manner in which this is conducted ; as the *form* of a syllogism, &c.

5. In the same manner it is employed to denote the particular mode of procedure in courts of law ; as the *forms* of law, religion, &c.

6. *Form* is, sometimes, although improperly, used to denote the different circumstances of the same body ; as water in a fluid or solid form. But as this phrase regards the internal qualities, rather than the external figure, it is improper ; and ought to be water in a fluid or solid state.

7. But when bodies of different kinds are compared with one another, this term may be applied to denote other circumstances than shape or figure ; for we may say, a juice exsuding from a tree in the *form* of wax or resin ; although, in this case, the consistence, colour, &c. and not the external arrangement of the parts constitute the resemblance.

8. From the regular appearance of a number of persons arranged on a long seat, such persons, so arranged, are sometimes called a *form* ; as a *form* of students, &c. And,

9. By an easy transition the seat itself has also acquired that name.

10. The seat of a hare is also called a *form*.

To be continued.

POETRY.

VERSES MADE ON SEEING A YOUNG LADY LAST-NIGHT ON THE
SOUTH BRIDGE OF EDINBURGH, NOVEMBER 14. 1791.

For the Bee.

LAST night when Sol withdrew his beams
Beneath the azure skies,
And murky night her curtain threw
Across the trav'ler's eyes,
Some glimm'ring lamps, with feeble flames,
Edina's streets did light,
(For Luna then could not be seen
Tho' mistress of the night)
By help of which I saw, ye Gods!
A nymph divinely fair,
Whose every look was beauty's self,
Nought could with her compare.
Her hair in flowing ringlets loose,
Hung waving on her cheek,
Her lively eyes, like drops of dew,
Did shine divinely sweet.
I saw and lov'd, yet lov'd in vain,
This sweetest of her race,
For she walk'd off, left me behind
To mourn her absent face.
Tho' fled, her lovely image still
Kept fix'd within my breast,
And thus I reason'd with myself,
As after her I prest:
"Whilst on forbidden fruit I gaz'd,
"I stood abash'd with fear,
"Hard fate! no farther to advance,
"And yet to be so near.
"So Moses from fair Pisgah's top,
"The land of promise ey'd,
"But never reach'd that favour'd spot;
"He saw, came down, and died."

RAA KOOK.

SONNET.

For the Bee.

THE rose bud, op'ning to the gilded hour
Its sweetly blooming charms and scented breath,
Torn from its parent stem, a beauteous flow'r!
Droops down its head, and fading feels its death.

Or if, perchance, the tender blossom fair,
 In Julia's chamber decks the gilded vase,
 A while it lives, as if in native air,
 Then pines, and with'ring, spends its leafless days.

Thus from the parent stem of virtue torn,
 Some charming female, whose unripen'd charms
 Beam'd like the radiance of the risen morn,
 Too fondly yields to bless a flatt'rer's arms :
 Admir'd, she blooms a while,—possest, she's spurn'd !
 Then, frail and fair, dies friendless and unmourn'd !

A PHOENIX HUNTER.

ANONYMOUS VERSES.

For the Bee.

WHAT means this thrilling motion in my breast ?
 Why, trembling, stands a tear in either eye ?
 O lull, kind heav'n ! my anxious mind to rest ;
 Remove the cause, or let the mourner die !

Scarce had six summer suns roll'd o'er my head,
 Scarce had I learn'd to lisp a parent's name,
 When they, alas ! were number'd with the dead,
 And left their orphan other friends to claim.

Yet not unpitied was my early woe,
 Nor did I feel or grieve my helpless state,
 'Tis now, in riper years, their loss I know,
 And vainly murmur at the will of fate.

For o'er my head a cloud of ills are hung,
 My bosom swells with many a bursting sigh,
 And still this pray'r escapes my fault'ring tongue,
 Remove the cause, or let the mourner die !

TO A LADY, WITH A BASKET OF EVERGREENS GATHERED IN DECEMBER.

NOT from the gay parterre, or blooming field,
 Spring the green plants, which now their honours yield,
 To deck the parlour, where, in neat attire,
 My Celia sits before the cheerful fire.
 The field and garden have resign'd their bloom
 To pale-ey'd winter's desolating gloom :
 Such are the charms of beauty and of birth,
 Priz'd high by votaries of wealth and mirth ;

They glitter in prosperity's bright ray;
 But, in affliction, wither and decay.
 Yet the deep forest's venerable shade
 Preserves its verdant honours undecay'd.
 While the majestic pine and balmy fir
 With spreading odours fill the ambient air,
 This humble shrub, this plant and creeping vine,
 To deck the ground in comely order join;
 Tho' simple be their form, nor do they dare
 In beauty with the tulip to compare,
 The gay carnation, or the blushing rose,
 When summer's heats their lovely forms disclose,
 Yet clad in one unvaried modest dye,
 They chilling blasts and pinching frosts defy.
 Their verdure and balsamic breath remain,
 Alike in summer's and in winter's reign.

Such is the mind, with heav'nly virtue fill'd,
 Tho' in the vale of poverty conceal'd;
 Tho' void of outward gaiety and show,
 Enwrap't in shades, and overborne by woe,
 Its bloom and worth still undecay'd remain,
 And from adversity new vigour gain.

THE VANITY OF RICHES.

ANACREON. ODE xlii.

IF the treasur'd gold could give
 Man a longer time to live,
 I'd employ my utmost care
 Still to keep, and still to spare;
 And, when death approach'd, would say,
 'Take thy fee and walk away.'
 But since riches cannot save
 Mortals from the gloomy grave,
 Why should I myself deceive?
 Vainly sigh, and vainly grieve?
 Death will surely be my lot,
 Whether I am rich or not;
 Give me freely, whilst I live,
 Gen'rous wines, in plenty give
 Soothing joys my life to chear,
 Beauty kind, and friends sincere;
 Happy, could I ever find
 A Friend sincere, and beauty kind:

REVIEW.

Isert's travels in Africa.

MR ISERT, sometime surgeon in the Danish settlements in Africa, has lately published at Copenhagen, an account of what fell under his own observation while in that part of the country, which serves to represent it in a point of view somewhat different from what is commonly believed in Britain. At the present period, when every thing that comes from British pens respecting Africa may be suspected of exaggeration on one side or the other, it is to be hoped that the observations of an intelligent foreigner, who has taken no part in the present disputes respecting the slave trade, will be listened to with attention. His observations relate chiefly to the nature of the country, its soil, climate, &c. and the manners of the people. In all cases he writes without passion, and seemingly without prejudices of any sort. His residence, when in Africa, was for sometime at *Christianburg*, on the river Volta; and afterwards at Whidah; and it is to that part of the coast of Africa that his observations apply.

From every thing that occurs in this narrative it appears, that the Danish officers on that coast live in good intelligence with the natives. He represents the climate favourable, and the fields exceedingly fertile, productive of fruits and grain, abounding with innumerable flocks, not to mention fish and game, which can easily be obtained. Springs of water, he says, are rare (at Christianburg,) but they find an easy way of supplying that defect by a kind of filtration of sea water. They have only to dig in the sands on the sea shore a pit eight or ten feet deep, at the distance of an hundred and forty, or an hundred and eighty feet from the sea. This reservoir, by little and

little, becomes filled with fresh water, perfectly sweet and excellent to drink. Our author professes that he is much astonished at this phenomenon, as, by the most accurate research he could make, he never could discover in these sands any thing of an absorbent nature. Perhaps if he had discovered such absorbents, the phenomenon would not have been accounted for.

The Europeans live in such good intelligence with these people, whose manners, he says, are mild, and dispositions gentle, that they have established a custom of contracting with the females there a kind of temporary marriage, which lasts while the Europeans remain in that country, and is under the regulations of the law. Before permission is given to contract this kind of marriage, the man is obliged to pay a certain sum, which goes to a fund appropriated for the support of the children, called the *mulatto bank* *. They likewise become bound to pay to the use of the woman, a rixdollar *per* month, as long as the marriage lasts. The children that spring from these marriages are all educated in the Christian religion, and at eight or ten years of age, the boys are entered into the pay of soldiers in the Danish troops, at least if the father does not take charge of them; the daughters, and in general all the children whose fathers are absent, are brought up at the expence of the bank till they are able to provide for themselves.

While he was on that coast, Mr Isert had occasion to make a visit to the chief of the *Acquafins*, a negro nation inhabiting the mountains, about thirty leagues from the coast, which gave him an opportunity of seeing a considerable extent of that country. He was received with the greatest marks of friendship; and, instead of finding the people wicked and perfidious in the interior part of

* For a negro this must be equal to a month's pay, for a mulatto woman it must be the double of it.

the country, as they had been represented to him, he had occasion to observe that they were more gentle in their manners, and more unaffectedly kind, in proportion to the smallness of the intercourse they have with the Europeans.

"The houses," says he, "of these negroes, consist of stakes of wood interlaced with branches, whose interstices are closed with a kind of mortar. They consist only of one floor, but they are divided into several apartments, which are kept very neat and clean. Wood here abounds; the mountains are covered with trees which appear to be as ancient as the world. Some of those I saw measured forty-five feet in circumference. The soil is so fertile that the labours of agriculture occupy not above four weeks in the year. Palm-trees grow here in great abundance, from which the inhabitants extract a very refreshing drink, and also an oil which answers instead of butter. Their principal nourishment is the fruit of the banana, [*musa paradisaica* LINN.]; and the root of the yam, [*Dioscorea alata* LINN.]; which is here of a more delicate kind than that which grows in the West Indies.

"There are two methods," continues he, "of obtaining the drink in question from the palm-trees. One is to pluck up by the roots an old palm-tree, which has given over carrying fruit, to lay it horizontally, and to bore a deep hole in the middle of the trunk, under which they place a vessel to receive the juice that flows from it. During the first three or four days it yields but very little; but in eight days following, it runs so fast, that one would think the whole substance of it would be converted into juice. The other method is to allow the tree to continue standing, to cut off only the summit, and to make an incision along the trunk. The liquor that is obtained in this manner is not so abundant, but of a better quality than the other."

Every morning they go to the woods to collect this liquor for the consumption of the day. Our author, in his

walks, often met with troops of young women returning from the woods, with vessels on their heads filled with this liquor. When they approached him, with a politeness which was highly attractive, they always offered it to him to drink, and bent down upon their knees, that he might with conveniency and ease reach the vessel. When there were several of them together, they were emulous who should have the honour of preference; and she who was preferred seemed to be very much flattered by it. To content as many as he could, he used sometimes to taste of the whole. When it is fresh drawn, he says, this drink is mild and innocent. Preserved beyond two days, it becomes acid and intoxicating. In every case it is refreshing, and ought to be accounted as a great bounty of nature in these hot climates.

The air of the country, he says, is pure and healthful, whatever travellers may say of it, whose diseases rather originate in their own intemperance, than the insalubrity of the climate. The heat, also, appears to be a good deal more supportable in the interior part of the country than along the sea coast. How different a country is this from what the people in Britain usually believe Africa to be! Two years ago it was represented in the British senate, as a country too bad even for our condemned malefactors to inhabit.

We shall conclude our extracts from the sensible performance with the following anecdote, which does equal honour to all the persons concerned, Europeans as well as Africans.

Anecdote.

“A negro, who had become bankrupt, surrendered himself to his creditor, who, according to the established custom of the country in such cases, sold him to the Danes. Before the departure of the vessel for the West Indies, the son of this man came to him on ship-board. After the tenderest

effusions of sensibility, on both sides, the son respectfully reproached the father for not having made use of the power the law gave him of selling his children for paying his debt, and demanded, with great earnestness, to be allowed to take his place; but the father, not less generous than the son, having refused to agree to this exchange, the son applied to the owner of the slaves, and had no difficulty in persuading him, that a young robust person was better able to endure fatigue, than a man already advanced in years. His offer was accepted; the son was put in chains, and the father, in spite of himself, not being able to prevent it, was set at liberty. *Mr Iser* having been witness to this generous contest, was so affected by it, as to represent it to the governor, who, moved by the story, sent for the owner of the slaves, paid out of his own pocket the money he had given for the old man, and restored the son to his father."

Those who wish to degrade human nature, and vilify the works of god, must often meet with facts which contradict their detestible *hypothesis*. "God made man upright." And there are traces of the original propensity of the human mind to beneficence and kindness, in all nations, and among every people. Whoever attempts to inculcate an opposite doctrine, is guilty of treason,—not against the king,—not against the nation,—but against the majesty of human nature,—it ought to be reprobated as the most heinous of all crimes.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE SALT LAWS IN SCOTLAND.

Continued from p. 160.

I HAD lately occasion to make some observations on the mischievous tendency of the salt laws in Scotland. The subject is far from being exhausted, and it is of such mag-

nitude, that I hope my readers will excuse me for specifying a few other particulars.

While I am writing, a recent case has come to my knowledge which is a very striking illustration of the pernicious influence of these laws on the community. I have seen a copy of an anonymous letter, that was lately sent to the commissioners of customs in Scotland*, informing them, that it has been long a practice on the west coast of Scotland, for private persons to salt butter and cheese with smuggled salt; and then this butter and cheese is frequently shipped from one port to another, *coast-wise*, for market. The informant therefore desires that the commissioners will forthwith issue orders, requiring all custom-house officers strictly to prohibit any butter or cheese from being put on board any vessel to be carried coast-wise, until they bring a clear and satisfactory proof that such butter or cheese has been cured only with salt that has paid the duty. And this modest gentleman concludes with threatening, that if such order be not issued, he will write to the lords of treasury, informing them of this fact, and stating the negligence of the revenue board in this particular.

Whether such orders have been issued or not, in consequence of this intimation, I do not enquire. But that similar orders, in cases of the same sort, have been issued in Scotland, admits of no doubt. I state the fact merely to show in what manner business is here conducted, and likewise to point out the disagreeable situation in which the commissioners of revenue in this country are placed†.

* The commissioners of salt duties are always commissioners of customs in Scotland.

† It has been so much the custom in this country to point out abuses, only with a view to deprecate the men who had been concerned in them,

Should the commissioners have as much sense as to see the impropriety of this requisition and disregard it, the

that the public will scarcely believe that an attempt can be made to reform any kind of abuse from other motives. Hence it has become a very ungracious task to point out errors that require to be corrected: The timid *will* not, and those of doubtful character *dare* not expose themselves to the obloquy which that would occasion. Thus it happens that great political abuses remain unknown, for ages especially in the distant parts of the kingdom. It will probably be supposed that I bear no good will to the superior revenue officers, and wish to hurt them; but this is far from being the case. I know indeed that the revenue boards are the greatest curse that Scotland knows, and that nothing would tend so much to benefit this country, as to remove them from it entirely, and put us under the same government in this respect with England; but this arises from the nature of the institution itself, not from the men who hold the offices. They are indeed more the objects of pity than of blame; for, like the Egyptian taskmasters of old, it is expected they should cause the people under them produce bricks without straw. And if they cannot succeed in this vain attempt, they are accused of negligence in the discharge of their duty, and are in danger of losing their office; for small as their salaries are, and frittered away, next to nothing in many cases, by private pensions, to people who are technically named *riders*, they have the additional mortification of holding their places by a very precarious tenure, (the death of any one member of a revenue board vacating the commissions of the whole.) They are, therefore, in the strictest sense of the words, "*men under authority*, having others under them, who may say unto one man go, and he goeth, to another man come, and he cometh, and to a third man do this, and he doeth it." All this they can do with the utmost ease, *when it is to oppress the people*; but if they were to attempt to relieve them, the case is greatly altered. Thousands of accusations would then be lodged against them for being lax in collecting the revenue; and these accusations would be lodged before men who are ever ready to credit such reports upon the slightest foundation, and who could not be brought to listen to reason were it offered to them. The revenue boards are required to explain laws that are in many cases inexplicable. They are required to execute laws that cannot be carried into execution. [A law stands on the statute book at present, respecting the revenue, which contains many clauses that are to be executed on the THIRTY-FIRST day of NOVEMBER !!!]

In all these inexplicable cases, they have only one rule they can safely follow, *viz.* to construe the act in the most unfavourable way they can

probability is that the threat would be put in execution ; and that a severe injunction from the treasury board to enforce the revenue laws strictly, implying a censure on them for negligence, might be the consequence. If, to avoid that disagreeable interference, they should rashly issue the illegal order demanded, the consequences would be ruinous to many persons, who now make a shift to subsist ; and this practice, if once established, might continue to depress the people, and depopulate the country for ages, without being known to people high in office, or to the country at large. I call such an order *illegal*, should it ever be issued ; for among all the severe restraints that have been devised to prevent evading the payment of the duties on salt, there is no law by which a person is required to bring proof that the salt he consumes in his family, or that with which he cures either butter or cheese, for home consumption, has paid the duty. Yet should the custom-house officers require, that every poor person in the Western Highlands, who cured a few stones of butter or cheese, to be sent by sea to Glasgow

for the subject ; for, by a strange kind of logic adopted in revenue matters, it is always understood, that to hurt the subject, and to benefit the revenue, are synonymous terms. Such, then, being the true situation of these revenue-officers, what can they do ? Prudence, and a regard for the interests of their families require that they should give no *apparent* cause of offence to their superiors. I could scarcely conceive an idea of a situation that would be more pitiable than that of a man of sense and principle in that office, who should think it incumbent upon him, to discharge his duty with a conscientious firmness. I could compare him to nothing, but to that of a man who should attempt by main force to drive out a nest of wasps and hornets. He would be harassed to death by infinite attacks from all quarters ; nor could he, after all, accomplish the good he intended.

Let it not, therefore, be supposed, that I envy, or bear a malevolent grudge at men in these circumstances. I only regret that such things should be ; and that there is no way of protecting them from the iniquity of their own proceedings, but by exposing the guilt of these proceedings to public view, and thus obtaining for them a firm band of defenders who will stand by them on all emergencies.

or Edinburgh for sale, must come in person, from the distance of forty or fifty miles, to the custom-house, and bring with him witnesses to prove, to the satisfaction of a custom-house officer, eager perhaps to display the insolence of power, it is plain he would be made to incur an expence, in many cases, beyond the total value of his goods. The order, therefore, would be in fact a prohibition to send any of these goods to market. Yet it is from the sale of these small articles, alone, that many a poor family must make up their little rents to the landlord. Their stipulated rents must be paid; they would thus be reduced to beggary, and must leave a country, where every exertion to procure a scanty subsistence is frustrated by wanton regulations, that, under the pretence of augmenting the revenue, are only calculated to destroy. Can any person view such transactions with attention, and not feel a glow of indignant abhorrence that no respect to persons can repress, and that no consideration whatever ought to induce him to conceal? I think it is impossible. Had I myself never examined the situation of these poor people, I might have allowed them to continue to groan under their various loads of oppression; but knowing them, as I do, I should deem myself blameable in the eyes of God and man, did I not do what is in my power to alleviate these evils.

Those who live in affluence, or who feel that spirit of independance which persons in easy circumstances alone can feel, will be at the first blush disposed to say, why do they not resist such illegal oppressions? As justly might they ask, why one man, with a pistol at his head, does not refuse to deliver his purse to another? It is beyond their power to make any resistance. Should they even know that the demand is illegal, which they have no means of knowing, and do not even suspect, they could not bear the expence of even a citation before a court of justice, far

less the charge of a complicated suit in Exchequer; so that it is all one to them whether the demand be legal or not. If it be made they must tamely submit to it.

Why do not the owners of lands in those regions vindicate the rights of their people, and prevent them from suffering oppression, in which their own interests are so deeply involved? I answer that the principal land owners there neither know that their people are oppressed, nor are they sensible of the consequences of these acts of oppression, if they heard them. I will venture to say; that no set of men will be more apt to overlook these observations, or even to contradict them in private conversation, than some of the the great land owners of the Highlands. They think it is for their honour that it should be believed that their people suffer no oppression, and for that reason they will maintain it. Is a minister to be blamed if he trusts to the representations of such men, in preference to that of those who write with a kind ardour, as I now do, which many will think can only flow from some private pique? Yet it will be difficult for these men to say what reason could influence me so warmly to espouse the cause of these people, unless it be a principle of humanity and justice alone. I have neither connections nor private property in that country; nor have I the most distant view of ever having any such; yet I cannot help being anxious for the welfare of these people. I have seen their patience, their indigence, their unavailing industry. I have seen them languishing in want, yet scarcely even daring to complain. I have seen despair heaving their bosoms with anguish, and urging them with irresistible power to abandon that country which refuses to permit them to taste of that plenty which heaven has put within their reach. Having seen and pondered these things, I dare to do, what no one else seems to think prudent; and, regardless

of that power, which too many in this country idolize, I point out with freedom, and without malevolence, abuses, which it is a disgrace to any country, that calls itself civilized, so long to have tolerated. If the time be not yet arrived, it assuredly will come, when those things I now begin to point out to the notice of the public will be reprobated as the opprobrium of the nation.

Nor is it to the fisheries only that the salt laws are destructive, nor to Scotland alone that their influence is confined. There are numberless manufactures retarded, and many branches of industry banished from this kingdom, that would otherwise flourish in it, were it not for that pernicious influence of these laws. I shall here only specify two cases, out of many hundreds that might be produced.

Vast sums of money are sent annually from Britain to Spain for barilla, which is a necessary article in the manufacture of glass, and the finer sorts of soap. That salt comes at a very high price to us, and of course enhances the price of those manufactures in which it is used. It was proved, some years ago, before a committee of the House of Commons, that barrilla of a superior quality to that which came from Spain, could be extracted here from common salt, and could be afforded full thirty *per cent.* cheaper than it, were it not for the salt duties. The committee having been satisfied with regard to these facts, recommended that the salt to be employed for this purpose should be exempted from duty. It was so; but the precautions, necessary to guard against the salt being taken away for other purposes, became such a burthen on the manufacture, that the undertakers were constrained to abandon the enterprise with loss. There are many other chemical manufactures, of great national moment, which must be abandoned on the same account.

In my near neighbourhood are several persons, at this moment, nearly reduced to beggary, by being subjected to perpetual harassments under the pretext of salt laws, though they do not employ an ounce of salt in their manufactures.

While I thus only state facts, that cannot be controverted when narrowly examined, yet some of these facts are so incompatible with the dictates of common sense, that they will scarcely be believed by any person who has not reflected on subjects of this sort. Such is that I am now about to mention. One would think it could not be for the interest of any nation to discourage their own agriculture and manufactures, for the sake of encouraging those of another country, especially where that kind of partiality diminished the revenue of the country considerably; yet so it is with regard to the curing of beef and pork for sea stores in Britain at present. By the laws, as they now stand, supposing fresh beef or pork were to be sold at the same price in England and in Ireland, yet, merely by the operations of the salt laws, an Irish barrel of beef or pork, could be sold cheaper in England, than an English barrel of the same beef and pork, by not less a sum than seventeen shillings *. The consequence is, that there can be no competition between them. Of course most of our salted meat for sea stores is brought from Ireland, from which branch of trade our revenue derives no emolument, but the reverse. We likewise furnish them rock

* This is taking into the account the difference in the size of the barrels. If the size alone be regarded, the difference of price would be ten shillings. We thus grant to Ireland an indirect bounty on beef and pork, consumed in Britain and British vessels, to the amount of about L. 200,000 *per annum*. Could it be believed possible that a people who lay claim to common sense should pay so much to discourage their own agriculture !!! Yet so it is. The want of room only prevents me from giving the items of this singular account.

salt from Liverpool, at next to no duty, and coals to manufacture it, so that they can afford to sell that salt more than three hundred *per cent.* cheaper than British salt can be sold; by which means they are enabled to carry on a smuggling trade in salt to Britain to the amount of more than a hundred thousand pounds a-year. And their tanneries, and other manufactures in which salt is used, have an advantage over ours to astonishing degree. I must therefore once more repeat it, that the minister who can take the trouble of investigating this very important subject, and seriously try to remove the evils to which these impolitic laws have given birth, deserves a very high degree of applause, and merits the countenance of every honest man in the kingdom, in forwarding any rational plan for removing such ruinous abuses. When he therefore has digested his plan for this important reform, and shall bring it forward, it is to be wished that the unprejudiced part of the nation will be quite unanimous in his support in this instance, and show, *for once* that the great body of the people can be brought to approve a measure that is dictated by common sense and beneficence. If they do this it may be marked, however, as an æra in the history of mankind; for I do not recollect if a similar instance can be produced in the annals of past ages; it is in regard to war and predatory expeditions, alone, that the suffrages of the people have been hitherto unanimous.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Yackstrolle's favour is received, and shall appear with a few necessary omissions, with the first opportunity; his farther correspondence is requested.

The extracts by *J. Aprice* are thankfully received, as also the *reading memorandums*, a continuation of which is requested.

The queries by *R. W.* shall have a place as soon as possible.

As also the anecdotes *A. O. E.*

The *Acrostic* by *A. S.* would neither do honour to him nor *M. S.* nor this miscellany.

The Editor is sorry he cannot comply with the request of *B. B.* He is not satisfied of the propriety of travestying any part of the sacred scripture.

The letter of a *subscriber* is received. And several other pieces that will be acknowledged in our next.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11. 1792.

ORIGINAL MEMOIRS OF BRIGADIER RESEN,
COMMUNICATED TO THE EDITOR BY A CORRESPONDENT AT
ST. PETERSBURG.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

By reflecting a moment on the motley groupe of characters, with their various tastes and modes of thinking, which constitute what is called the public, we see immediately that the subjects treated in such a work as the Bee, cannot be too much varied; nor is it easy to say what species of writing should be refused, which does not militate against morality and manners. For my own part, I am strongly of opinion, that the more it resembles the description of the public itself, the more it promises to please.

To contribute then my mite to your chequered essays, I send you a very rough outline of a very extraordinary northern character, drawn up in rather an unusual form. In spite of much diligence and research I have not been able to find any of those charming and interesting prognostics of bud-

ding talents so much attended to of late by your learned British biographers; not a single line of lisp- ing poetry could be found in the haunts of his youth, no engaging prattle of happy infancy, no sage re- marks on chace hoop and whip top, no juvenile sallies of promising wit; nay, I must confess, that I have not even the consolation of edifying the world with the moral precepts of my dying hero; but if you will take all I know about him, it is much at your service.

The subject of this paper is the Russian naval bri- gadier Resen, (a rank in this service equivalent, I believe, to a three years post-captain, or commodore in the British,) however, let that be as it may, the last is the title I used to give him, and nothing could be more applicable, as he was the commodore Trunnion of Russia, and died here a few years ago at the ad- vanced age of one hundred and seven, probably the only seaman who survived till 1787 the famous battle of la Hogue, between Russel and Tourville, in the year 92 of last century. But what makes the commo- dore's history more interesting, is his having been cast away, (at least in the land sense of the phrase,) in the midst of this city, and lost for a quarter of a century, till discovered on the following occasion.

In 1782 the noble equestrian statue of Peter the Great, executed by the celebrated French artist Fal- conet was uncovered, and exposed to public view with great ceremony and pomp, striving to gain the summit of the huge rock on which it stands, so em- blematic of the labours and situation of the great man it represents. The instant the statue was vi-

sible, a venerable hoary officer, in the ancient naval uniform, was seen to break through the circle of troops that surrounded it, and to fall on his knees, with uplifted hands, before the effigy of the Russian hero. This uncommon and unexpected apparition much heightened the effect of the moment, amidst the thunder of artillery, and the sound of drums, trumpets, and all the instruments of war, and not a little excited the curiosity of the numerous spectators to know the name of the veteran, who seemed a man of other times, with his silver hair and antique dress.

When led up to her imperial majesty, who was present in the midst of her court, and attended by her nobility and general officers, the honest tar informed her that he was brigadier Resen, who had served under, and accompanied Peter the Great, in most of his maritime expeditions on the Baltic and Caspian ; but, about twenty-five years ago he was put upon the superannuated list, and a small pension, according to the rules of the navy ; and as the generation with which he served was all gone, and his fortune did not permit an equipage, modern clothes, &c. to cultivate the new, who seemed too fine gentlemen for a seaman of the last century, he had lived retired, and mostly at home, but that the sight of his old master had roused him so much, that he was ready to fight a few more battles for the illustrious lady who had so nobly commemorated the hero of his age. On her majesty demanding his age, he assured her he was but very little turned of a century, which was nothing for a Norwegian, and begged to

be employed. It is easy to conceive the gracious reception Catharine gave the old servant of Peter the Great, who seemed to be dropt from the clouds to render the inauguration of his statue complete, in the very *costume*, and language of his reign; and he was accordingly taken care of the rest of his life, presented with an order of knighthood, invited to court, &c. which he attended ever afterwards, on great holidays, till the day of his death, with all the gaiety and spirit of a young man.

The following outline of the commodore's life was taken by his physician, from his own mouth, on different visits he made him, rather as a friend than a patient; for the old tar was never sick but once during their acquaintance, which commenced after his resurrection at the statue; nor had he ever taken in his life any thing under the name of remedy, but a dish of what he called his purgative, Virginia tea, or infusion of tobacco, a medicine worthy of Smollet's Trunnion, whether for taste or operation.

Commodore Resen was born in Norway, about the end of 1679 or the beginning of 1680, and educated for the Danish navy at the marine cadet corps of Copenhagen. Towards the end of 1691 he embarked on his first voyage, in a frigate called the Northern Eagle, accompanied by another called the Crown Prince, both under the command of his uncle Van Resen, afterwards admiral and governor of Drontheim in Norway. They were ordered to Leith as a convoy to some merchant vessels, and the old commodore still preserved a faint remembrance of Edinburgh, particularly its castle, an object that had

struck his young imagination. From Leith they sailed for the Thames, and visited London and its court in king William's time. Before their return home the commodore was left by his uncle to learn his profession, as a volunteer on board the French fleet then fitting out against England. He went out with admiral Tourville on board his own ship, and was in the great battle of 1692, that ended so fatally for the glory of Louis xiv. and the navy of France. The old gentleman, when mentioning this event, used to give us a little air they sung in going out, but slyly added, that their tune was changed in coming back; so that we see *ça ira, ça ira*, the song of that day as well as of this, has not been always truly prophetic. He mentioned nothing else remarkable except that he was at Pondicherry when Louis xiv. died, during his service in the French navy, which he quitted for his own native service soon after their return from India. About the year 1713, Peter the Great having applied to the Danish court for some naval officers of experience, our commodore was one of those sent him, and he commanded a vessel in the great fleet which anchored before Copenhagen in the year 1716, under the orders of the emperor in person. Here he made acquaintance with a young Russian boy whom Peter brought on board to see the fleet, from a school at Copenhagen, who will be mentioned in the anecdotes.

The commodore accompanied his master in the Caspian as well as the Baltic; and at the siege of Derbent in Persia, in the year 1722, he met with an

accident, which one would think must have more or less affected any other man's health and naval career. A handspike, whirled round in the capstan by the accidental slipping of an anchor, struck him so violent a blow on the lower belly, as to force down a part of its contents through either groin, and these two ruptures he carried about him to the day of his death, with little seeming inconvenience, (after the first effect of the accident,) a period of sixty-five years, as he was after, as before, one of the most active and healthy men of his age. He was left by Peter, as an intelligent, trusty officer, on the Caspian sea, where he seems to have been forgotten for a long period, on the unexpected death of his master. He was called, however, at last to Petersburg, but we hear no more of him till his apparition at the statue, after having been twenty-five years on the yellow flag.

From that period the commodore became once more a member of society, frequenting the court in great holidays, and was often invited to stay dinner, even when none other of the same rank could sit down to table, according to the etiquette; but none was observed at the court of Catharine with the companion of Peter the Great, nor at that of his imperial highness the grand duke, his lord high admiral; but the old tar had his mind so strongly impressed with a long train of the strict military subordination, observed in the Russian naval and land service, that he found himself in the stocks, when obliged to remain sitting, from respect to his great age, whilst his imperial highness himself, with the field-marsbals, admirals, generals, &c. were all standing, as is always the case,

in presence either of the sovereign or the heir apparent; and he used to make us laugh at the serious manner he complained of the amiable and condescending great dutchefs, holding him down in an armed chair when he offered to rise on these occasions.

The veteran likewise frequented the houses of the great, particularly that of the venerable general Betskoi, director general of the public seminaries of education, so honourably mentioned by the benevolent Howard and Mr Cox, the same school boy he made acquaintance with in the fleet before Copenhagen; but from the different nature of their services they had never met afterwards till at the inaugural ceremony.

In this manner the old commodore, spent the last years of his life, happy and carelsed, enjoying much better health than our luxurious, indolent men of fashion at sixty. This observation suffered only one exception, by a fit of illness in the year 1785, but of a nature that demonstrated the uncommon force of his constitution and frame, at the advanced age of an hundred and five. It was a pleurisy, the disease of vigorous young or middle aged men, and of so inflammatory a nature, that his physician had only the alternative of seeing his venerable friend perish in the greatest sufferance, or to risk the sarcasms of the public, if not loss of reputation, by bleeding and blistering a man in his second century, the only possible way, however, of saving him. To the surprise of every body these remedies operated as promptly and effectually as they do in common cases; and the old Trojan not only bore them well, but likewise the violent evacuation of a secret dose of his Virginia tea,

which he took unknown to his physician, and to his infinite alarm, as by no means entering into his calculation. But the sailor of Louis XIV. and Peter the Great, had the pleasure of laughing at his doctor on his feet, the fourth day after his fright, and of telling him, in English *, that his practical calculations were all made on feeble landmen of the eighteenth century, but did not apply to a son of Neptune of the seventeenth, particularly to a Norwegian, who had his elder sister, Mrs Chaplet, at the age of an hundred and eleven years, eating meat suppers at Cronstadt, after burying two generations. This curious circumstance was confirmed to your correspondent by Mr Booker, British agent at that sea port, her next door neighbour, who said these suppers consisted of sour cabbage, and sausages, or ham, in the German stile.

The commodore survived his pleurisy two years, frequenting, as formerly, the court and tables of the nobility, till, in 1787, a singular circumstance put a sudden period to a life so uncommonly vigorous, that it would have been difficult to prognosticate when such a machine would have ceased to act, without some uncommonly violent derangement.

This was an unexpected visit from an old superannuated colonel of marines, whom the commodore had not seen for forty years, and thought long since dead ; the joy that such a meeting created in the two ancient shipmates was highly natural, and the tender scene of congratulations, inquiries, stories, &c. was prolonged until the commodore, finding himself faint and fatigued,

* His physician was an Englishman.

ordered his old housekeeper to entertain his friend in the next room with their best cheer, while he lay down for a few minutes on a sofa to take a nap, but after waiting an unusual time for his awaking, they found it eternal ! although with all the appearance of sleep, and a benign smile on his countenance, like the effects of a pleasant dream. His medical friend, almost his next neighbour, being immediately sent for, was an useless witness of this happy and beautiful modification of death, in the hundred and seventh year of a glorious life,

I perceive that the English Annual Register for 1789, has noted the death of his sister Mrs Chaplet, very exactly, at the age of one hundred and eleven; but made the commodore seven years too young.

*Imperial cadet corp St Petersburg,
Oct. 10. 1791.*

ARCTICUS*.

A VOYAGE TO THE HEBRIDES.

Continued from p. 178.

Island of Uist.

JULY 9th sailed for south Uist, and reached it in a few hours. Distance from ten to twelve leagues. After dinner some walked, some rode to Boisdale's house, —reached it at dark. It stands on the Atlantic ocean. This venerable gentleman, about sixty years of age, has thirteen children all alive. Lives like an ancient patriarch, surrounded by his children and relations, diffusing happiness and plenty amongst them all.

* In a future number will be given, some characteristic anecdotes of this singular personage, and of Peter the Great, preserved by him.

Landed in a fine harbour, safe from all winds, but full of sunken rocks. Slept at Boisdale's house.

10th July. Some of the party walked to the top of a high hill. Some crossed a channel of two miles in an open boat, to Eriskay, an island belonging to Boisdale, in the centre of which there is a fine inlet from the Minch or channel, between the islands and main land. Quere *Minch*? perhaps *Manche*, or *la Manche*, as the French call the sea between France and England. Here were two Irish fishing wherries, which had nearly completed their cargoes of cod and ling, principally the former. They came from Rush, twelve miles north from Dublin. They take in salt, duty free, at Campbelton; they carry their cargoes to Campbelton, and receive the bounty, L. 3 *per ton*;—export the fish to Dublin, and sell them there, from L. 24 to L. 27 *per ton*. The excessive foulness of the bottom, makes it doubtful if a fishing station would answer here. Boisdale has improved a great deal of land, by draining and laying shelly sand on the surface. This island is a full confirmation of Dr Anderson's assertion, that shelly sand is to be found in inexhaustible quantities in the Hebrides. There is here a flat on the western side, five or six miles long, composed solely of this sand: Thin soil, bearing exquisite grass, and fine rye, and barley. The whole hills are mossy like those of Derbyshire, and probably capable of the same improvement, by draining and laying lime or shells on the surface, which destroys the heath, and brings rich pasture in a few years.

Eat a bread, called greddan. This is made of oats, roasted like coffee beans; ground in a hand mill, and

baked with water into cakes on a hot stone, or and-iron;—thought a delicacy, and was not disagreeable to those who had never tasted it before.—Eighty in number dined at Boisdale.

Loch Skipford.

11th July. Some of the party rode from Boisdale along the west side of the island, for several miles, to the island of Benbecula, on which is situated Nuntown, the seat of Clanranald. Some sailed from the harbour to Loch Skipford; were surprised the boat came so slowly from the shore; when it approached the cutter the delay was found to arise from a little cow in tow, which, with some sheep, Boisdale had, unknown to the party, put on board for sea stores. Sailed at half past twelve,—at four reached loch Skipford in south Uist. Caught some fine trout in a small lake near this harbour, called Loch Brachenmore, or the Loch of Big Trout. In the harbour itself, crabs, lobsters, and oysters.—Slept on board. This harbour is the finest we have yet seen. On approaching to south Uist, and Benbecula, the whole islands seemed on fire. There was a great smoke in a variety of places round the shore. At this season kelp is burning in every creek. The sea weed of which kelp is made grows best between high and low water mark. It is at every three years cut, dried, and burnt to an imperfect glass, in kilns made by two low walls of stone, about two feet high and two feet asunder.

Island of Benbecula.

12th July. The sailing party rowed and sailed in an open boat for Benbecula; saw on the edge of loch

—— a turf or peat hill, so dry that it would have burnt. By means of this, a salt work may be erected with advantage. Reached Clanranald's to dinner, — a large company. Conversed Clanranald as to towns. — He offered any quantity of his land round Loch Skipford, from one hundred to five hundred acres, and to co-operate with the society. By the way, overtook an old man, riding on a small horse, with a young person of each sex attending him. He accosted the company with great courteousness. Found he was Macmuirish Clanranald's blind bard.

Ofsian's poems.

13th July. Before breakfast attended Macmuirish: He said Clanranald's red book contained the genealogy of most of the families of Scotland. That the poems it contained related to the genealogies of O'neal and other Irish families. "Do you know the poems of Ofsian?" "St Patrick son of Alpin, requested Ofsian to give him some account of Fingal and his wars." The poems he repeated were that account. He repeated at great length, and with great energy and fluency. The gentlemen who understood the language, bestowed the highest encomiums on the poems. They said they were natural, elegant, and affecting. One of those gentleman being desired to explain to the strangers the scope of the poem, would have willingly declined the task; he said the explanation would convey a very inadequate idea of the composition. He observed it was more on the Irish than Scotch Gaelic dialect. Being urged to tell us the subject of the poem he went on thus: "It is a story of a wild boar being killed by Dermid, Ofsian was the

son of Fingal, Oscar was the son of Ofsian son of the king, and lost his sight before he died; Fingal was jealous of Dermid. He bid him measure the wild boar. He measured it from snout to tail, along the hair or bristles. Fingal bid him measure it against the bristles. There was poison among the hair.—Dermid died of it.”

Another, “The king of Greece’s daughter appeared to Fingal on the hill of Crochin *ain*; and told him she was confined, or detained by a man, a giant, who had a head and tail like a cat. His name was Talk, the son of Traine, (strength.) Fingal undertook to rescue her, and turned out one thousand warriors, whom Talk engaged singly and slew. Oscar offers him single combat. After much intreaty, Fingal consented to his grandson’s engaging Talk the giant.—Oscar killed him, released the lady, who died of grief for the loss of Fingal’s thousand warriors.”

Left Nuntown, Clanranald’s house, in the forenoon, and all returned to the vessels. Clanranald, before our departure, renewed his generous offer of land for a town at Loch Skipford, and for another at Cannay.

Benbecula is a pretty island, like the other parts of Long Island. The best land is towards the western ocean, with mossy hills on the eastern side.

Memorandum.

To write to the society of antiquarians at Edinburgh, to have the traditionary poems of the bard Macmuirish preserved, especially respecting Fingal and Ofsian. They exist only in the memory of this bard, and of another man in Nuntown. Received a

present from Boisdale of some ancient coins, one of them of Robert Bruce, coined at Perth.

14th July. Skipford wind bound. Visited the grant of land made by Clanranald. After dinner sailed out of the loch in Clanranald's sloop.

15th July. Got under weigh at six o'clock, A. M. Thermometer Friday 13th, at 11 P. M. 48. 15th same hour, 50. Sunday at 8, A. M. calm, thermometer 59.

Isle of Skye, Dunvegan.

By eight o'clock P. M. reached Dunvegan castle, in the Isle of Sky. On the passage saw many cuttle fish leaping out of the sea chasing herring fry, and four or five very large whales pursuing the cuttle fish. They spouted water to a great height,—remained long above the surface,—high, black monsters.

16th July. Rode five or six miles a little way across the island, to Loch Bracadale. Visited the remains of a great Danish fort or doon. Colonel Macleod of Talisker joined us in his boat, rowed by boatmen in uniform, with a bagpiper in the bow,—returned to dinner,—were honoured with the company of colonel Macleod of Talisker, major Normand Macleod of Dunvegan, Mr Macdonald of Scalpa, Mr Macleod of ——— Mr Shaw, merchant, of Dunvegan, Mr Macdonald of Ormadale, Mr Macleod, captain Macleod, bailie Macleod, Mr Campbell. Took the opinion of all the company as to the fittest place for two fishing stations, one on the west, and one on the east side of the island. Some were for Loch Bracadale, at the doctor's house; but the most for Slein in Lochbay, which is a small loch within Loch Folliart. On the east side some preferred Portree,

others said Cailliachan,—by much the greater number preferred Cailliachan. Slept on board. Wind contrary.

17th⁷ July, Wind cross. Stayed all day ; sailed in the forenoon to the farm of Slein in Lochbay ;—it is the finest situation for a town that the committee has yet seen ; cod and ling fishing near, and the bay full of herrings. Hauled up a line, and took a fine ling off one of the hooks to which some money was fastened, and the hook let down again. The land near Slein is flat, of excellent quality. Exposure south,—climate warm,—crops early,—harbour safe, and of easy access near the fishing grounds ; a pier of some expence requisite. Lime-stone within half a mile by land or water,—free or grit-stone on the farm ;—near the lime-stone veins of coal of the kannel kind, or parrot coal, make their appearance.

Visited Mrs Macleod at the castle of Dunvegan, the lady of major Macleod. That lady said, *John the blind*, an old man in Troternyish parish in this island, used to repeat parts of the poems of Ossian to her and her family, she holding the translation in her hand, and comparing it with the original, which, in her opinion, always surpassed the translation in beauty. Supped at the inn. An old man, of the name of Macleod, repeated the death of Dargo. By the account given of it, this poem seemed to be nearly the same story of the Boar told by Clanranald's bard. Those who understood the language were in raptures with this poem. They said no translation could convey any tolerable idea of its beauties, which drew tears from the eyes of some of the au-

dience of the greatest sensibility. The memory of those two old men whom we have heard, surprised all the party.

18th July, Wind bound. Visited another harbour in the boats. Dined on board the cutter ;—the gentlemen of the island of the party. Visited also what is called a subterraneous house ; it is four feet high, three feet wide, about sixteen or twenty feet deep, built with common stones, and covered with flag stones or pavement. It can only have been a repository for goods. It enters in the face and near the top of a bank. Its only merit is its antiquity, for such a place might be made at any time for forty shillings. Not so with the Danish tower we saw on a former day in our way to Loch Bracadale ;—this is a large stupenduous work, of big shaped stones, without cement, and now demolished to within eight or ten feet of the ground. Its dimensions fifty feet in diameter, the usual dimensions of those doons or dhunes, with which every corner of the Highlands abounds, the walls about twelve feet thick, no windows in any of them, and this had not the hollow spiral passages found in the most of them. Within, it is divided into five compartments, with stone partitions yet extant,—a very puzzling circumstance, and peculiar to this. There is a circular compartment in the middle, the divisions of the other four are radii from the centre of this circle. The uniformity, as well as size and form of these buildings, excite curiosity, and almost defy conjecture. The learned antiquarian Dr Thorkelin says they are no less common in Norway. He imagines them to

have been retreats in times of war: That they were covered on the top for men to fight from, and dark within lightened by tapers or flambeaux only. Others think all the inhabitants of those days lived in circular houses of the same construction, lighted only from the roof, like those of Kamskatcha at this day: That the doons were probably the houses of the chiefs, differing only in size and strength from the houses of the other inhabitants*.

It was observed, that in the county of Sutherland, where there are three of the greater houses still to be seen, there is also between Dornock and Skeebo, very distinct circular remains of houses, and so numerous as to induce one to believe they must be the remains of an ancient town. Tradition degenerates into fable:—The tradition respecting one of them is, that it was Fingal's house, and that his wife carried the stones for building it from the adjacent rocks in her apron. Fingal represented invariably as a Giant, and his race as gigantic. In another place in the Highlands some great stones are shewn, of many tons weight, which, it is said, he and his companions amused themselves throwing from one mountain to another.—Took leave of the gentlemen of Sky at midnight: Slept on board.

To be continued.

* This subject has been already agitated, and will be farther discussed in some recent numbers [of the Bee]. It is only now postponed to make way for other important matter.

 MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS ON SOME EMINENT WRITERS*.

Apollo defend me from—
 The censures of wise men, and praises of fools;
 From critics who never read Latin or Greek,
 And pedants who boast they read both all the week.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

IN reading your Miscellany, I find much entertainment, and some papers, which I earnestly wish that both king and ministry could find time to peruse. I heartily wish them a more extensive circulation than even your Bee. Of this sort are the deep and just reflections of Timothy Thunderproof; and several anonymous papers. Albanicus too seems a judicious thinker; and, without flattery, Sir, I am highly pleased with the excellent remarks that you have made vol. vii. p. 320 on his *novum organum politicum*. I do not say it is impossible that some simples or chemical preparations may exist which are capable of restoring a decayed human constitution; but though I should hear of their being found out, I should incline to see the experiment of the supposed catholicon first tried upon others; and some decayed constitutions actually restored by them to a confirmed state of health, before I ventured to take a dose myself.

* The ingenious author of the following letter will excuse the Editor for having abridged it; and for having softened a little the language in a few passages. The miscellaneous remarks which have been omitted, will perhaps, appear with greater propriety in a separate essay. To the reader, no apology is necessary for obliging a correspondent who evidently judges for himself.

The chief design of my troubling you at present is to express my admiration of the ingenious and excellent criticism of your *old correspondent* on the works of Mr Pope, a man,—shall I call him a poet? whom many a fool hath praised. In his essay on criticism, generally allowed to be as good a poem as ever he wrote, except, perhaps, the Rape of the Lock, he has the following verse :

“ A work, t’ outlast IMMORTAL Rome, design’d.”

What a glaring inconsistency ! and in the Rape of the Lock he has :

“ And *sleepless* lovers just at twelve AWAKE.”

It were endless to point out his many inconsistencies, especially as in your apology for him to your Old Correspondent you have not ventured to say, that he has written any good poem, but only “ a greater number of good lines, when taken singly,” &c. As this seems to me to imply, that you *allow* he had not capacity for any thing above a *single line*, I am content. But pray, Sir, would you, or any of your correspondents, be so obliging as to acquaint me, why modest writers, and especially poets, are almost always allowed to sink into oblivion, while conceited fops, like Mr Pope, become the objects of public veneration? Can any thing be more proudly said than the *Exegi monumentum aere perennius* of Horace? What a fund of self sufficiency must he have been possessed of, when, in a letter addressed to Augustus, an absolute prince, he tells him, in his own peculiar manner, that to him (Horace,) and his brethren the poets, the emperor of the world must be indebted for his reputation in future ages! Yet what want of order, and want of harmony, and some things worse,

are to be found in this vain man's works? What must a modest man feel when he hears Virgil boasting that his verses

“ Shall through more ages bear his sov'reign's praise,

“ Than have from Tithon past to Cæsar's day's

It is needless to mention many of those self-conceited men. I am not so much surprised at the vanity of these poets, (poetical enthusiasm being supposed allied to madness,) as at the folly of the world that supports them in all their vanity, and fulfils their prophecies; so that their fame

“ Spreads and grows brighter with the length of days.

But as bad taste has served the purpose of many a bad poet, so it has done much evil, in another way, also, by destroying a great part of some good histories. Caligula thought *Livy* a wretched historian, and another imperial buffoon, whose name I have forgot, paid the same compliment to *Tacitus*. Mr Pope having got puffers in different nations to set his fame afloat on the folly of mankind, which is an everflowing stream, it is hard to say how long his poetry may draw the public attention, notwithstanding his weaknesses, vanity, and evident want of wit and judgement. Voltaire gave Mr Pope a great lift among the dabblers in *vertú*, and *sciolists* in literature, a noisy genus and excellent puffers. “ Mr Pope (says he, writing to a friend,) is the best poet “ in England, and, at present, in the world.” After this, what one of Voltaire's admirers durst wag a tongue against Mr Pope? But he has found *props* from a quarter where it might less have been expected. You would think, Sir, that men resemble sheep; if one breaks out of a fold they all hurry af-

ter. How hard is it not to be carried away with the current of the times ! Even a grave professor of rhetoric has blown his wind into the trumpet of fame in favour of Mr Pope. Can a man of true taste hear him with patience ? “ Few poets ever “ had more wit than Mr Pope, and, at the same “ time, more judgement to direct the employment of “ that wit. This renders his Rape of the Lock the “ greatest masterpiece that, perhaps, ever was com- “ posed in the gay and sprightly style.” THE RAPE OF THE LOCK, Sir ! The very poem, in the reading of which your Old Correspondent declares, justly and truly, that he, and the critics of his acquaintance, found nothing but *weariness* and *disgust*. I shall fairly tell you my mind on the subject, in two lines which I am very fond of, for the knack that they have of expressing almost every one’s sentiments who repeats them :

“ True taste to me is by th’s touchstone known,

“ That’s always best that’s nearest to my own.”

Shakespeare seems to be your Apollo, a man who has written more bad lines, when taken singly, not excepting even Mr Pope* himself, than almost any author that I know whom the foolish world has so

* If our correspondent will not admit that single good lines will constitute a good poet, perhaps he will also allow that single bad lines ought not to exclude him from that honour. Indeed it has been generally admitted, that it is not the want of faults, but the abundance of beauties which constitutes excellence in literary compositions. I am always glad, however, to find a man who thinks for himself. Should he even be wrong, he avoids the disgusting monotony of “ *faultless mediocrity*,” which, to a man who thinks at all, is the most tiresome of all tiresome things.

Edit.

much praised. I should be glad to see a criticism on his works by your Old Correspondent. I have not a doubt but he would convince you that hitherto you have not been thinking for yourself on that subject, but with the public, and that it is now time to open your eyes to wisdom.

YACKSTROTTE.

A QUERY.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

I HAVE often wished to know what was the precise amount of the old weight called a *sarplar* or *surple*, but have never been able to make it out. It was applied only, I think, to the weighing of wool. What perplexes the matter is, that in all old dictionaries, and accounts of weights, you find this denomination of weights explained, but in such an inaccurate and erroneous manner as to exceed belief. I will be much obliged to you, Sir, or any of your readers, who can explain this matter to me. To assist them in their inquiries the following notes respecting it, that have occurred to myself, are subjoined.

This word occurs in Rymer, tom. v. p. 248, where we meet with the following words: "*Captores, &c. in com. Leyc. 34 SARPLAR, tribus saccis, & viginta duæ petris;*" so that it is plain three sacks, and twenty-two stones, are less than one *sarplar*.

In Smith's memoirs of wool, vol. i. p. 50. thirty-six surples of Yorkshire wool are valued, 50 Ed-

WARD III. at L. 1900, which is at the rate of L. 53 nearly. And in p. 29 of the same book it appears, that Yorkshire wool was sold at four marks *per* sack, *viz.* L. 2 : 13 : 4.

Louis Guicciardin, in his *discrezione de paesi bassi*, article *anversa*, p. 225, says, that one thousand two hundred surples are worth, at a medium of the coarse and fine, two hundred and fifty thousand *scudi*; which, converting the Roman *scudo* at the rate of 5 s. 1 d. amounts to very nearly L. 53 *per* sarplar.

From these facts it appears undeniable, that the *surple* or *sarplar* of wool contained several sacks. I should, however, be glad to know if there be any *direct* evidence that can ascertain its precise weight.

AN INQUIRER.

ANECDOTES FROM WARBURTON'S REMARKS ON NEAL'S HISTORY OF THE PURITANS.

“ DURING the civil and religious commotions of the last century, a puritan gofsip met a church-woman, her neighbour, one morning in the streets of Exeter. Hark ye, neighbour, says the first, do you hear the news? Merchant such a one is a bankrupt, and merchant such a one, the church-man, loses ten thousand pounds by the break—There is God's judgement for *you* :—The merchant was a great scoffer at the conventicle. And is this all you have heard? said the other. Yes. Why, then, you have heard but half the news. Mercer such a one, of *your* religion, has lost fifteen hundred pounds by this break. I must confess, replied the first, a severe trial.”

Another.

“ A DEPUTATION of the London divines went to Cromwell to complain that the cavalier clergy got their congregations from them, and debauched the faithful from their ministers. Have they so? said the Protector; I will take an order with them. And he made a motion, as *if* he was going to say something to the captain of the guards, when turning short,—but hold, said he, after *what manner* do the cavaliers debauch your people? By *preaching*, replied the ministers. Then preach BACK again, said this able statesman; and left them to their own reflections.”

READING MEMORANDUMS.

Continued from p. 144.

THE deportment of most men in common life, and of all men without education, is never marked with any trait of politeness or tinge of good breeding. Discourse not in a whisper: In company it is ill breeding, and in some degree a fraud; conversation being a joint stock and common property.

Resolve never to speak of a man's virtues before his face; nor of his faults behind his back.

The man who has a *passion for fiction*, can never obtain credit in any company.

A man's first care, should be to avoid, the reproaches of his own heart. His next, to escape the censures of the world:

To be continued.

POETRY.

AN ODE TO SOLITUDE.

For the Bee.

AN Solitude! celestial maid!
Wrap me in thy sequester'd shade,
And all my soul employ;
From folly, ignorance, and strife,
From all the giddy whirls of life,
And loud unmeaning joy.

While in the statesman's glowing dream
Fancy pourtrays the high-wrought scheme,
And plans a future fame!
What is the phantom he pursues?
What the advantage that accrues?
Alas! an empty name!

To him the grove no pleasure yields,
The mossy bank, nor verdant fields,
Nor daisy-painted lawns;
In vain, th' ambrosial gale invites,
In vain all nature sheds delights,
Her genuine charms he scorns!

Pleasure allures the giddy throng,
The gay, the vain, the fair, and young,
All bend before her shrine;
She spreads around delusive snares,
The borrow'd garb of bliss she wears,
And tempts in form divine.

Fashion, with wild tyrannic sway,
Directs the bus'ness of the day,
And reigns without controul;
The beaux and sparkling belles confess,
She animates the modes of dress,
And chains the willing soul.

Can these, the slaves of Fashion's pow'r,
Enjoy the silent tranquil hour,
And bloom with nature's glow?
Or to the votaries of sense,
Can Solitude her sweets dispense,
And happiness bestow?

How wretched that unfurnish'd mind
Which to each vain pursuit inclin'd,
Is ever bent to foam!
Oh! be that restless state abhorr'd!
Seek not for happiness abroad,
She's only found at home!

Ye sages who, with anxious care,
Roy'd thro' the fleeting tracks of air,
A vacuum to find;
Wiser had ye employ'd your skill,
With solid sense and worth to fill
The vacuum of the mind.

Let choice, not wrinkled spleen, engage
The mind to quit the world's gay stage,
Where folly's scenes are play'd;
Sour discontent and pining care,
Attain the fragrance of the air,
Disturb the silent shade.

Not wounded by misfortune's dart,
I seek to ease the rankling smart
Of thorny-fest'ring woe;
But far remote from crowds and noise,
To reap fair virtue's placid joys,
In wisdom's soil they grow.

I ask not pageant pomp nor wealth,
For blest with competence and health,
'Twere folly to be great;
May I thro' life serenely slide,
As yon clear streams that silent glide,
Nor quit this lov'd retreat.

Beneath this leafy arch reclin'd,
I taste more true content of mind
Than frolic mirth can give.
Here to the busy world unknown,
I feel each blefsful hour my own,
And learn the art to live!

While turning nature's volume o'er,
Fresh beauties rise, unseen before,
To strike th' astonish'd soul;
Our mental harmony improves,
To mark each planet, how it moves,
How all in order roll!

From nature's fix'd unerring laws,
 We're lifted to th' eternal Cause,
 Which moves the lifeless clod;
 This wond'rous frame, this vast design,
 Proclaims the workmanship divine,
 The architect, a God!

Ah! sacred bliss, thy paths to trace,
 And happiest they of human race,
 To whom this pow'r is giv'n;
 Each day in some delightful shade,
 By Contemplation's fost'ring aid,
 To plume the soul for heav'n!

SONNET ON THE RESIDENCE OF THOMSON,

BY H. J. PYE, ESQ. POET LAUREAT.

For the Bee.

YE seats where oft in pensive rapture laid,
 The Bard of nature wak'd the rural reed,
 And as the months in circling lapse succeed,
 Her varying form, in glowing tints, pourtray'd;

Or to Britannia's list'ning ear convey'd
 Th' exulting praise of Freedom's sacred need,
 Or taught the sympathising breast to bleed,
 As Tragedy her shadow woes display'd.

Still Fancy's train your verdant paths shall trace,
 Tho' clos'd her fav'rite vot'ry's dulcet lay;
 Each wonted haunt their footsteps still shall pace,
 Still genius thro' your green retreats shall stray;
 For from the scene B—s—n loves to grace,
 Th' attending muse shall ne'er be long away

VERSES EXTEMPORE, ON THE LATE REPORT FROM INDIA.

For the Bee.

As summer's torrid beam destroys
 The verdure of the freshen'd fields,
 And blasts the blooming fragrant joys
 Of flow'rs and plants which nature yields;
 So droops Maria's glowing soul
 When fatal news arrive from far,
 Her troubl'd thoughts in battles roll;
 She hears Alexis fell in war!

INTELLIGENCE RESPECTING LITERATURE AND ARTS.

Downie's charts of the east coast of Scotland.

NOTHING deserves a higher degree of praise than that kind of attention in professional men which prompts them to perfect the business in which they are employed. National improvements are thus obtained, that are of great consequence, and at a very trifling expence to the public.

Such is the nature of that public spirited enterprise I now have the pleasure to announce to the public. Mr Downie, while master of his majesty's ship the *Champion*, which was for several years upon the Leith station; knowing there were no very accurate charts of the eastern coast of Scotland, made it his business to collect all the information he could, respecting the tides, currents, shoals, rocks, and other circumstances that could affect the navigation on this coast, which he marked in his own charts, for his own information in navigating the vessel. By a continued attention to this business for many years, the discoveries he made became numerous and important. His chart happened to be seen, occasionally, by professional men, who encouraged him to prosecute his discoveries still farther, and prompted him to publish them. Encouraged by the approbation and patronage of captain Duncan in St Andrews, and several other sea-faring men of distinguished merit, he applied himself to make a survey of the whole coast, from the *Staples* off the coast of Northumberland, to *Duncanby-head* on the northern extremity of *Caithness*. The whole of the coast was laid down by actual trigonometrical survey, conducted in a very simple, ingenious, and accurate manner, that will be described in the work itself.

The fishing banks upon the coast, the sunk rocks and sands, not formerly noticed, and the shelvings of the shore, were first pointed out to his notice by the fishermen on the coast, from whom he took every possible information; they were then ascertained by himself, for the most part, by actual soundings and surveys. I have seen these surveys, and, without pretending to a professional skill in matters of that kind, but trusting to the approbation, as to accuracy, of those who are knowing in these matters, who had examined and approved of them, I can safely say that I have seen no hydrographical chart, those of the Ganges and Baramputer, by major Rennel, alone excepted, that gave such a clear and distinct idea of the surface of the ground below the water near the coasts.

“ This work he divides into four charts. The first is a general chart of the east coast of Scotland, from Holy island and the Staples to Duncansby-head, containing the true position of the shore, the form extent, and depth of water on the fishing banks, with the depth between them and the shore. In the vacant spaces are charts of the harbours of Aberdeen, Montrose, and Cromarty, on a larger scale.

“ II. A chart of the coast of Scotland, from St Abb's head to the Red-head, in which the Edinburgh Frith is continued up as far as Aberlady bay, and the river Tay, up to Dundee, on a scale of above half an inch to a mile; in this chart the Cape or Bell rock, and the Carr rock, are exactly laid down, with conspicuous land marks for avoiding each; the depth of water on the outside of the Bell rock, and between it and the shore, as also the depths near the Carr, off the mouth of the Frith, and in St Andrews bay, are carefully inserted, for a guide to ships passing in the night or in thick weather*.

* By a careful attention to the tides Mr Downie lays down very plain directions by which a vessel which has been by misfortune embayed in St

“ *III.* A chart of Edinburgh Frith, from North Berwick to Limekilns, on a scale of an inch and a tenth to a mile, in which the passage south of Inchkeith is described, with good land marks for it, and for every rock, shoal, and passage in the Frith. On the same sheet is a chart of the river Tay, up to Dundee, on a scale of an inch and a quarter to a mile, with the marks for taking Tay bar, and those either for sailing or turning up the river to Dundee.

“ *IV.* A chart of Holy island, the Fern islands, and the Staples, with the coast from Sutherland point to Berwick, on a scale of two inches to a mile, describing all the passages through these rocks and islands, and the passage into Holy island harbour, with proper marks for each. In this chart are inserted four sunk rocks not known before, besides many others but imperfectly known, all of which are pointed out by conspicuous land marks.

“ These charts are accompanied by a book of directions, containing, in the introduction, an account of the time and manner in which this survey was taken ; a description of the compasses commonly used by the vessels in the coasting trade, pointing out the errors and defects they are liable to, with the most proper methods (as far as it can be done) of rectifying them, illustrated by a copperplate.

“ A general view of the tide along this coast, giving an account of its rise, strength of the stream, and time of the current ending at each place.

“ A description of the fishing banks, their extent, depth of water on them, and the depths between them and the shore, with directions by these depths, how to conduct vessels in the night or in thick weather.

Andrews bay, may, with good management, be able to be extricated from that dangerous situation without suffering damage. There is scarcely a year elapses in which some vessels are not lost in this bay, morely because this particular has not been hitherto known or adverted to.

“ The appearance of the land, when coming in from the sea, or any part of the coast, by which it may be known.

“ Then follows the piloting directions for the coasts, bays, channels, harbours, &c. divided into five chapters, each containing a certain space of the coast, and is divided into three sections : The first section in each chapter treats of the tide, giving an account of its rise, velocity, course, and ending of the stream in each place : The second, is a description of all the places, rocks, sands, land marks, with every thing else necessary to be known, for the purpose of comparing with the chart, in order to be acquainted with the proper marks and objects, before the ship proceeds : And the third section contains sailing directions and anchorages, calculated for the immediate conduct of the ship, and bringing her to an anchor, in which nothing is touched upon but what is necessary for that purpose, and so arranged, that the objects appear as you sail along.

“ And lastly, is a tide table, a table of latitudes and longitudes, and a table of magnetic courses and distances, from place to place along the coast.”

Mr Downie does not give general views of the appearance of the coast, because, as he justly observed, no view can be just unless when taken from a particular point only ; such general views therefore often mislead unwary navigators. But when he points out the land marks for avoiding a sunk rock, or other dangerous object, if the land mark he has chosen be not some very remarkable object universally known, such as the castle of Edinburgh, &c. he takes care to give an exact delineation of the country where his land mark stands, with the precise line of direction and distance necessary to be attended to, which cannot be mistaken by any one.

Allow me to add, that there are a great number of rocks and shoals laid down in these charts that never before were

known, and several important errors in respect to longitude and latitude corrected ; so that it cannot fail to prove a valuable addition to the nautical knowledge of the coasting seamen. I make no doubt but Mr Downie, from the extensive sale of this truly useful work will receive a reasonable compensation for the trouble and time he has employed in perfecting it. Surely if any species of exertion deserves the liberal patronage of the public, this is one of those.

Captain Brodie's chart of the German ocean.

CAPTAIN JOSEPH BRODIE, whose patriotic exertions I have had so often occasion to mention with applause in this Miscellany, has for many years past been engaged in a labour of the same kind, and very much upon the same plan with the above, for perfecting a chart of what is commonly called the German ocean ; reaching between the straits of Dover and the Cattegut, and bounded on the west by the British shore. This great work, I have the pleasure to inform the public, is now in considerable forwardness, and if that gentleman's valuable life shall be preserved, will probably be, ere long, presented to the public. Mr Brodie's chart will not only contain the bearings and distances from the principal places, and the fishing banks in the course of that chart, but very exact plans of the principal harbours, and accounts of tides, currents &c. the knowledge of which are necessary for navigating in those seas with safety.

N. B. One of captain Brodie's buoys is now finished, with its flag-staff, complete, and may be seen by such as are curious in matters of this nature at Leith. It has been tried in the water and found to answer the purpose perfectly.

Acknowledgements to correspondents deferred till our next.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18. 1792.

ON THE POLITICAL PROGRESS OF BRITAIN.

LETTER V.

Ignota rostris verrimus æquora,
 Gentes quietas sollicitavimus
 Terrore belli, orbisque pacem
 Miscuimus misero tumultu.

BUCHANAN.

We have ranged seas unknown to navigation. We have harrassed inoffensive nations with the terrors of war; and by wretched quarrels have confounded the peace of the world.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

THE stanza which I have chosen as the motto for this letter, is borrowed from an ode, written on the ravages committed by the Portuguese in Brasil, and it affords a concise, but comprehensive idea of the general conduct of Europeans in the new world. An impartial survey of some part of the transactions of Britain in the West Indies, will vindicate my present application of the verses of Buchanan.

There are but two motives, those of commerce and of conquest, for which one part of the globe maintains

a correspondence with another. Of our mercantile intercourse with Spanish America, we have, in my last letter, seen a sufficient specimen. Of our military progress in the same country, a very candid summary has been sketched by the late Dr Samuel Johnson, in his pamphlet respecting Falkland's Islands. This publication has been more than once recommended in my hearing by the late Dr Adam Smith, as the best and most valuable portion of all Johnson's works. A few extracts from it will interest every reader. "Against the Spanish dominions" says Dr Johnson, "we have never hitherto been able to
 "do much.—They are defended, not by walls
 "mounted with cannons, which by cannons may
 "be battered, but by the storms of the deep, and
 "the vapours of the land;—by the flames of calen-
 "ture, and blasts of pestilence.—*Here* Cavendish
 "perished after all his hazards; and *here* Drake
 "and Hawkins, great as they were in knowledge
 "and in fame, sunk, by desperation and misery,
 "in dishonourable graves.—*Here*, and only *here*,
 "the fortune of Cromwell made a pause.—
 "The attack on Carthagena is yet remembered,
 "where the Spaniards from the ramparts saw their in-
 "vaders destroyed by the hostility of the elements;
 "poisoned by the air, and crippled by the dews;
 "where every hour swept away battalions; and in
 "the three days that passed between the descent and
 "re-embarkation, *half an army perished.*"

In this country there is no military project more popular than an invasion of Spanish America. These remarks may tend to calm the impatience of piratical

heroism. If we are disposed to reject general assertion, the prospect is not improved by a particular detail of circumstances:

In April 1726 admiral Hosier, with seven ships of war, was dispatched for the Spanish West Indies. His orders were to intercept the Spanish galleons in their way to Europe. The plot was discovered and disappointed. By the unaccountable tenor of Hosier's instructions, he was condemned to continue inactive upon his station, till his squadron had become the jest of the Spaniards. In the end both his ships and their crews were destroyed by the climate, and Hosier himself died of a broken heart. In the pathetic ballad composed on this event, three thousand men are said to have perished in this inglorious and disastrous expedition. "It seems to have been a mean
"piratical scheme to rob the court of Spain of its
"expected treasure, *even while a peace subsisted be-*
"*tween the two nations* *."

On the 18th of September 1740, commodore Anson set out on his memorable voyage to the south seas. The first chapter of his narrative is chiefly employed in describing the ignorance and stupidity of the board of admiralty; and if this great man had not been as much *above*, as their lordships were *below*, the common measure of human understanding, the difficulties which they cast in his way must have overwhelmed both himself and his squadron. For example, he was ordered to take on board, under the title of *land forces*, five hundred out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital. "But instead of *five hundred*, there came on

“ board no more than *two hundred and fifty-nine* :
 “ For all those who had limbs and strength to walk
 “ out of Portsmouth, deserted, leaving behind them
 “ only such as were literally *invalids*, most of them
 “ being sixty years of age, and some of them upwards
 “ of seventy. Indeed it is difficult to conceive a more
 “ moving scene than the embarkation of these un-
 “ happy veterans.” As the book is in every body’s
 hands, I need not quote farther. About a thousand
 persons were aboard that division of the squadron
 which reached the south seas. Of these, not a fourth
 part returned to England. An able bodied man can
 perform work upon an average to the value of twenty-
 five pounds *per annum*, and his life may be rated
 worth twelve years purchase. To the public he is
 therefore worth perhaps three hundred pounds ; and
 hence the loss of seven hundred and fifty men is equal
 to that of two hundred and twenty-five thousand
 pounds. It is certain that the expence of equipping
 this armament, and the value of the ships that were
 destroyed, far exceeded that sum. By the account of
 the commodore himself, “ all the treasure taken by the
 “ Centurion, was *not much* short of four hundred
 “ thousand pounds ;” so that we may affirm without
 presumption, that the Manilla galleon was a dear bar-
 gain. Guthrie in his grammar, not only without evi-
 dence, but in spite of it, has generously augmented
 the value of the prize to “ about a *million* sterling.”

As to the affair of Carthagena, referred to by Dr
 Johnson, two quotations may serve in the place of an
 hundred. “ It was thought, that *above twenty thou-*
 “ *sand* British soldiers and seamen perished in the

“ impracticable attempt on Carthagea ; and by in-
 “ clemency of air, and climate, during other *idle ex-*
 “ *peditions* *.” And again “ in September 1742,
 “ Vernon and Wentworth received orders to re-
 “ turn to England with such troops *as remained*
 “ *alive* ; and these did not amount to a *tenth* part of
 “ the number which had been sent abroad †.”

The miserable consequences of this contest to every party concerned are evident from the following short statement. “ The number of prizes taken
 “ by the English in this war was three thousand
 “ four hundred and thirty-four ; namely, twelve
 “ hundred and forty-nine from the Spaniards ;
 “ and two thousand one hundred and eighty-
 “ five from the French : They lost during the war,
 “ *three thousand two hundred and thirty-eight* †.”
 So that as the same writer justly observes, “ the
 “ question is not yet decided, which party had the
 “ greatest reason *to desire peace*.” As to the ships
 captured from the enemy, we have seen, in the case
 of Anson, that his seamen had much better have
 been at home planting cabbages ; and were it pos-
 sible to fix, with equal certainty, the profit and loss
 upon every other prize taken in the war, it would
 very likely appear, that even by success we were se-
 vere losers. But this is not the worst. The ene-

* Guthrie's grammar edition xi. p. 369. † Smollet's history.

† Guthrie p. 370. This account fully justifies the reflections of the late king of Prussia upon this subject. “ I view the undoubted superior-
 “ rity of the English fleets, over those of France and Spain united.—I fur-
 “ ther remark, with surprise, that all these naval armaments are rather
 “ for ostentation than effect, and do not impede the destruction of com-
 “ mercial.” Preface to the history of my own times.

my's privateers took *three thousand two hundred and thirty-eight British vessels!* The more that we reflect upon the war system, the more we are shocked by its guilt and folly. The pretended object of the war of 1739, was to recover the sum of ninety-five thousand pounds, to revenge the insults committed upon our seamen, and to assert our partial right of trading to the Spanish West Indies. As to the first of these three motives, the sum of money, it is as if two litigants were to enter the court of chancery on a dispute for half a crown. As to the insults of our seamen, let us consider what Dr Robertson has told us, that we had abused to the most scandalous degree our permission of trading to Spanish America. While we attempted to support such a complicated system of fraud, the Spaniards were not less anxious to check it; and what right have we to blame them? If innocent persons were stripped of their property, such accidents were sometimes unavoidable in so extensive a scene of action. When we speak of the outrages committed upon our commerce, let us reflect that by our abuse of *confidence*,
 “ the immense commerce of the galleons, formerly
 “ the pride of Spain, *sunk to nothing*, and that the
 “ squadron itself was reduced from fifteen thousand
 “ to *two thousand tons.*” As for the third reason of making war, an *Afsiento* trade, the company who enjoyed that monopoly sustained *a very considerable loss!* So that we fought nine years for permission to carry on *a losing trade*; and yet we laugh at Don Quixote for attacking a windmill. But had even this commerce been worth our acceptance, it was

like Esau's birthright, an advantage extorted in the hour of distress, and to insist upon enforcing it, was unbecoming an independent, an opulent, and a generous nation. We speak with as much fluency of French and Spanish treachery, as if we had engrossed in our own persons the whole integrity of the human species. Let us think of Hosier's expedition.

I shall mention another instance of our treatment of the Spanish nation, which is extracted from Dr Campbell's naval history. It is foreign to my purpose, and far beyond the limits of my plan, to give a detail of the endless and fantastical treaties entered into by Britain during the reign of George I. One of the most remarkable was, what has been termed the *quadruple* alliance, between the emperor, France, Holland, and this country. The object was *to fix the general tranquillity for ever*. The plan adopted for this end was extremely curious. The island of Sicily was to be taken from the duke of Savoy, and bestowed on the emperor, and the island of Sardinia was to be taken from the Spaniards, and bestowed in exchange on the duke of Savoy. As we had formerly conceived that we had a right not only to give the Spaniards a king, but to partition their dominions, our *title* to wrest Sardinia from their hands followed as a matter of course. To complete the game of cross purposes, the court of Spain had, at this very time, invaded Sicily,—had defeated the forces of the duke of Savoy, and had almost entirely conquered the island. Hence the duke was reduced to a situation, at once the most distressing and ridiculous. On the 15th of June 1718, Sir George Byng, with twenty

ships of the line, sailed from Spithead to the Mediterranean, to assist in accomplishing our *pacific* project. To enter into the particulars is unnecessary. Byng attacked, and burnt, sunk, or ran ashore almost an entire Spanish fleet. One of the prizes took fire and blew up with a crowd of Spanish prisoners, and I cannot help wishing that his majesty's *most honourable* privy council had ascended in the explosion. Between six and eight thousand of the Spanish seamen were destroyed or taken prisoners. Dr Campbell calls this "a *famous* action." The morality of statesmen is very well defined in a sentence of the Beggar's Opera. "What is the woman always whimpering about murder?" says Peachum, "when people won't deliver their money, *what would you have a gentleman to do?*" We need not wonder that the imperial viceroy of Naples sent Byng's fleet *seventy hogsheds of brandy*. The parliament met on 11th November 1718. "Some looked upon this stroke as one of the *noblest* exploits since the Revolution; but others considered it *in quite a different light*." On the 17th December following, war was declared in form. In September 1719 we took Vigo. The war which, as I formerly observed, gave general disgust, continued till February 1720*. It is not pretended that Spain had afforded the smallest provocation to Britain;

* In passing I may just observe, that we had, at this time, a strange kind of business on hand with Sweden, Denmark, and Russia. On the 1st May 1718, Sir John Norris, with ten ships of the line, sailed for Copenhagen. He there joined the Danish fleet, and both set out in conjunction to attack that of Sweden. They failed in their object. On the 30th November 1718, Charles XII. was killed. Upon this event,

and we, with our usual judgement and humanity, undertook this project for no purpose but that of *fixing the general tranquillity for ever*. Even Dr Campbell, partial and timid as he is, acknowledges that it was *PRETTY DIFFICULT* to throw the blame upon the Spaniards. But in another passage, the Doctor drops the mask: "The ENTIRE DESTRUCTION of the Spanish maritime power was the principal point in view. Abundance of pamphlets were published to shew the expediency of this measure, and the benefits that would result to Britain from the destruction of the naval power of Spain." Here we have, in all its lustre, the old and beautiful maxim *delenda est Carthago*. "The Spaniards filled all the world with complaints of our *insincerity* and *ambition*." Nor can we be surprised, since there is not in the blackest page of Davila, himself, an example of more atrocious treachery. What right have we to condemn John the Painter, a man acting upon principles which his conscience considered as defensible? We evidently had no principles but those of a robber; and, therefore, it would be

we changed sides, and in September 1719, Sir John Norris, with his squadron, was dispatched a second time to the Baltic, to protect *our new friends the Swedes*, against *our old allies the Russians*. In April 1720, he was again sent to the Baltic, with twenty men of war; and in April 1721, a fourth time, with thirteen men of war. Our friendship had been of very small service to the Swedes; for in spite of these three successive armaments for their protection, it was not till 31st August 1721, that the czar, *on his own terms*, condescended to grant them a peace. Such a ruinous and absurd system is sufficient to discompose the patience of the gravest reader.

In April 1727, Admiral Norris made a *fifth* voyage to the Baltic to protect Sweden.

242. *anecdotes of brigadier Resen.* April 18.
degrading the name of that unfortunate incendiary to
say that we behaved as a nation of JOHN THE PAINTERS*.

Laurencekirk,
April 5. 1792.

TIMOTHY THUNDERPROOF.

ANECDOTES OF BRIGADIER RESEN,
AND OF
PETER THE GREAT, PRESERVED BY HIM.

As I perceive, Mr Editor, that anecdotes in Britain have lately taken a quarto form, I presume a few of our Trunnion, and of his great master, will not be regarded as the worst part of my paper.

One trait in the commodore's character, although it may be more or less common to other men at an advanced age, afforded much amusement to his friends, which was, his constantly addressing and advising those he had known boys, as if they were still so, although often the most aged and grave senators of Russia; this was more particularly the case with the venerable general Betskoi, blind with age,

* It is amusing to observe the reward which Britain received from the emperor. About the year 1725, his imperial majesty "prohibited the goods and manufactures of Britain from being imported into the island of Sicily, of which" (says Dr Campbell) "we had so lately, and at such a mighty expence to ourselves, put him in possession." The dispute ended in a personal quarrel, and "the king in his speech to the parliament, publicly accused the emperor of a design to place the pretender on the throne of Britain." (Guthrie edit. xi. p. 366.) Abundance of scurrility, as Dr Smollet informs us, passed on both sides, a conduct which cannot tend to elevate our general opinion of the characters of sovereigns. All these continental connections were undertaken for the sake of Hanover. With respect to that electorate, Britain resembled a man of war in the tow of a bum boat.

who is regarded as the Methusalem of this city, where few old men are seen*, and it was truly comique to hear the commodore giving him advice at table, under the juvenile and diminutive name of Jacky, as to the dishes he ought not to acquire the habit of eating as hurtful to health, &c.

Another most laughable circumstance of the kind happened when invited to dine with the first lord of the admiralty, count Chernisheff, who was so long ambassador in England. The count inquired, on sitting down to table, if the commodore had nobody with him, but was answered by him, none but his boys; who were of course left, without farther reflection, to dine with the young people in the next room; but one of the guests arriving late, inquired at the count who the two hoary venerable officers were, whom he observed at dinner with the young folks, as he passed through their room; and to the no little amusement of the company, it was discovered that they were Trunnion's boys, two superannuated officers of invalids, the one seventy, the other near it. Talking of them one day at general Betskoi's table, the commodore said, "Tom was a good stout lad, but that Will, the youngest, had but a feeble constitution, and he was afraid would never be good for much."

* Few but what may be called effective men, are to be seen in St Petersburg at an advanced age, as the nobility generally retire to their estate, to pass their last years amongst their humble vassals; and the peasants are sent to their villages by their lords, when past labour, where he must maintain them as his own property.

Lord St Helens, then envoy extraordinary at this court, paying him a compliment on his English, he replied, "That he had spoke it better, but it was some time since he learned it." This *some time* we discovered to have been in the year 1691 when he made his voyage to Britain.

*Anecdotes of PETER THE GREAT related by the
COMMODORE.*

It is well known that Peter regarded his own subjects as grown children, and frequently corrected them with his own hand as such, in the patriarchal stile, which still exists in Russia, where a father corrects his children of all ages, if he thinks proper. It is also possible that the *point of honour* at that period was not as yet sufficiently established, to make other punishments as effectual, as in some countries where the chivalry of the middle ages had introduced it, and where a reprimand is worse than death to an officer.

At the siege of Derbent, where the commodore attended, some transports, with military stores, necessary to the attack, long waited for with impatience, arrived at last under the care of a prince, who, thinking the danger of the seas over, came to an anchor, (possibly in a careless manner) till morning, when he was to bring them in and land his cargo. But a cruel storm wrecked the emperor's present hopes during the night on the coast, which was found next morning covered with the so much wanted stores, and threw him into one of those fits of passion to which he was occasionally subject, and

that none could calm but his beloved Catharine. The unfortunate commander appeared with his report during its violence, and received such a lesson from Peter's *dubeen* or cudgel, (which he seldom went without) as rendered him ever after one of the most vigilant officers of the fleet. However, the commodore assured us, that, on another similar occasion, the emperor was brought to a laughable form of justice for breaking one of his own laws, by a Russian captain of a man of war, in the following manner :

It is equally well known that Peter the Great served regularly in person, and did the duty of all the ranks of both navy and army, from a private up to field marshal, to set example of military subordination and discipline to his subjects ; and that he set up a pageant representation, at the head of each department, who were to judge of the merits of himself and fellow officers, and reward their meritorious service, by gradual advancement of rank and pay. But I doubt much if the public are acquainted with the urgent necessity and expediency of this measure, which has been termed by superficial observers a puerile farce. It was no less than an inveterate rooted prejudice that Peter had to combat and eradicate, of so absurd a nature as scarcely to gain credit in this age, and which stood between him and the formation of the regular standing army he so much desired, and indeed had so much occasion for, if he meant to make any essential changes in his empire, surrounded and controuled as he was by the ancient strelits, or pretorian guards of Russia. When Peter mounted the throne, *a man whose father had held a higher place*

246 *anecdotes of Peter the Great.* *April 18.*
in the empire; than the father of one destined to com-
mand him, could not serve under such a commander
without being dishonoured. Now let any one reflect
for a moment on the influence of such a prejudice
on regular subordination and discipline, and they
will be convinced both of the magnitude of the ob-
ject the czar had to combat, and that he took the on-
ly effectual method of doing it; for what subject-
could plead such an excuse after the sovereign him-
self had served under every officer of experience and
merit, without regard to their genealogy. He must
be a philosopher little acquainted with the world,
who does not know the force of prejudice on man-
kind in general, and the danger of violently crushing
it, especially in proud feudal barons, who had thou-
sands of vassals, their own property, and probably at
their disposal.

During the building of Peterburg, its arsenals,
docks, navy &c. the czar had issued the strictest
laws, for the preservation of order in his favourite
infant city, and for the protection of the many fo-
reign artists, who were so essential to his great de-
signs. Possibly to please this body of men, with
whom he spent so great a part of his time, to the no
small jealousy of his officers and nobles, he used
to dress as they did, in an English great coat, and drive
about in a one horse chaise, similar to what the artists
used, with only one attendant, behind it. One evening
that he had remained amongst them later than usual, to
see the end of some mechanical operation or process, (and
to which he often put a hand himself,) he was met in
returning to his palace by a Russian captain of a man

of war, in a phaeton and pair, who taking the emperor for one of his much favoured, and consequently much hated artists, run up against his chaise, and begun whipping his horse, with many insulting invectives against the master, for not having cleared the way for a man of his rank ; till the thundering voice of Peter convinced him of his mistake, who dragging the offender out of his proud car, without further ceremony gave him the usual correction of his *dubeen*,—asking him between each volly of blows, have I not made my streets large enough for people to pass without molestation ? have I not published laws for the preservation of the inhabitants against such insults ? did you not take me for one of our useful helpmates, who have come so far to instruct our ignorance ? and did you not think to insult him under the cover of night with impunity ?

This adventure which got wind amongst the officers, turned the laugh so strongly against the bold captain, who had so manfully belaboured the emperor's horse, and been answered by the *dubeen*, that he found it difficult to remain in the corps, till his friends suggested to him a means of regaining the czar's favour, and diverting the laugh of his companions, which was to summon him before the lord high admiral, for breaking a law lately made. This was executed, and the czar appeared in open court, when the captain complained that rear admiral Peter, not having the fear of the emperor's laws before his eyes, had struck him in his uniform, against an express article of war ; and he therefore demanded the fine awarded in it, *viz.* one year's wages of a captain of the navy, and an ex-

cuse from the offending rear admiral.—The money Peter instantly ordered to be stopped out of his own pay, bowed respectfully to the court, and embracing the captain, took him once more into favour, highly pleased at his having so well seized the spirit of his institutions, and at his courage in enforcing them on himself; he probably might also be flattered with the compliment paid to his justice and magnanimity.

The commodore added that for the first years after the institution of his different courts, the emperor used to slip in, when he knew there was any cause to be tried where a poor man was plaintiff, and woe to the judges, if their decision was directed by a consideration of the rank or fortune of the parties.—Such was the man who has been so much misrepresented by ill informed authors; and your correspondent, without injustice to this great sovereign, (a title he thinks he truly merits when his education, means, and the state of the country are compared with his works,) cannot help remarking, that when he first settled in this country, twenty-one years ago, there were still living several of Peter's old servants, who all talked of him with the respect and veneration of the honest commodore.

Yours,

*Imperial cadet corp St Petersburg,
Oct. 10. 1791.*

ARCTICUS.

LETTER FROM SENEX.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Bee.

IN my last I half promised that you should hear from me again, if health should be continued. I have rea-

son to thank heaven for having conferred on me a greater share of health and strength, since that period, than I had any reason to expect. And I think the best use I can make of this interval of health, is to try to promote the welfare of others.

“To be good is to be happy.” This is a maxim to which I believe no aged person, who seriously reflects on the past transactions of his life, can withhold his assent. Allow me to add, that if mankind would bestow half the attention to conduct themselves by the unerring principles of justice and beneficence, that they sometimes do to promote their own interest at the expence of others, they would not only feel much less uneasiness in the mean while, but would also much better succeed in augmenting their worldly possessions than they do at present. This is not a hasty remark, but the result of long and serious observation; and if such as feel themselves disposed to doubt the fact, will take the trouble to take a view of all their acquaintance, they will perceive, that many persons of moderate talents, who are known to be possessed of rectitude of mind, and its necessary attendant, a natural desire to promote the interest, in a fair open way, of those with whom they are connected, make their way through life with great ease and honour,—while others who have unfortunately once deviated from the paths of rectitude, though possessed of talents, even of the most brilliant cast, are obliged to make exertions sometimes seemingly above the reach of human powers, and which, like the flounderings of a horse in a mire, only tend to sink themselves the deeper in misery and wretchedness. What an infinity of evils in this world then would be avoided,

could the minds of young persons be deeply impressed with the truth of this unerring maxim, "That to be good," that is, to adhere on all occasions to the dictates of justice and beneficence "is to be happy!"

Few persons are inclined to dispute the truth of this maxim in the abstract,—but when they come to apply the rule to their own particular case, they find a difficulty in doing it, and sometimes convince themselves they are adhering to it most rigidly, when they are indeed transgressing it as far as is in their power. Thus it is that man frequently deceives himself, and, while he is doing wrong, his conscience upbraideth him not.

In no case is this more frequently experienced than in regard to retaliation of injuries, supposed to be received by one man from another. The Scripture rule, which is indeed the only rule of rectitude in cases of this sort, "To do good to those that curse you, and to pray for those who despitefully use you," is set at nought, as directly contradicting the principles of natural justice, which we allow to be the basis of all goodness. It is just, says one, that the man who has injured me should be punished; and I am determined to inflict exemplary punishment upon him for this crime; in doing so, who can blame me, and why therefore should I desist?

Before this question can be answered, many others must be solved. Who hath made thee a judge in thine own cause? What evidence can you bring that an injury was intended? Art thou certain that the person blamed had not reason to conclude that you had injured him in a yet higher degree? Art thou certain that thou hast not actually injured him,

though perhaps without your knowing of it? Is it clear, that even if all the circumstances were laid before the accused person, he is capable of forming a sound judgement concerning them? These, and an infinity of other such questions must be solved, before you can be certain that by revenging a supposed offence, you are not in fact the cause of infinitely greater offences. It is certain that offences must come, "but woe be to him through whom offence cometh."

Let it, for example, be supposed, that by some unavoidable accident, I have trampled upon your toe, and hurt it very severely; you have in this case received a real injury, which I certainly did not intend, and for which I am exceedingly sorry, and am anxiously desirous to do every thing I can to alleviate the smart you feel. This is the natural state of my mind when the injury is perceived; and if you have patience to hear my apology with candour, and to witness the sincerity of my sorrow, by the natural expressions it will suggest, you will be entirely satisfied,—you will feel that no malevolence was intended,—that it is one of those unavoidable accidents in life, to which all mankind must submit,—that the same case might have happened to yourself,—and that from the natural expressions of sorrow it has extorted from me, you have reason to form a more favourable opinion of me, than you had ever formerly entertained.—The accident instead of producing a breach between us in this case, only serves to cement our friendship the more. Such are the blessed effects of forgiving an injury!

Put the case otherwise,—that instead of forgiving, you instantly revenge the injury. No sooner

have you received the hurt, than, without waiting for any explanation, you knock me down,—abuse me for a rude impertinent rascal,—contradict my attempt to tell you it was only accidental,—tell me it is a lie,—that I did certainly intend it, and that I lay in wait for an opportunity to do the deed, when I could do it with the greatest effect. If, in this case, I should happen to have as little reason and forbearance as yourself, the necessary consequence must be, that, conscious of the injuriousness of these unjust accusations, my pride is irritated; instead of apologies, injurious recrimination is adopted.—I conclude that if you had not a bad heart yourself, you could not have supposed I could have been capable of so much baseness. One injurious imputation produces another much more so; and, instead of increasing our mutual esteem and kindness for each other, this trifling accident ends in an irreparable breach, which perhaps can terminate only with our lives.—Unhappy, indeed, must the consequence be, if the parties in this case should chance to be man and wife;—their mutual esteem is gone, and with it their love, their reciprocal kindnesses, and endearing tendernefs for each other;—adieu then to happiness for ever! And for what is all this? the parties have still dispositions that ought to insure their mutual tenderest regards, but because of an inadvertence to the golden rule, that never can be transgressed with impunity, they are rendered the mutual pests of each other.—Look at this picture, ye married pairs; and if your hearts be naturally upright, you will perhaps recognize the justness of it. Make haste to repair the injuries

your inadvertence has produced; recal those pleasing days in which you felt no delight but in promoting the happiness of each other.—The hopes that this may be the case with a few who shall read this, will add a gleam of joy to the departure of

SENEX.

A FRAGMENT.

“THE tear of the morning hangs on the thorn, and imparts the rose. In the day of my joy, my cheek was likened to the blushing beauty of that charming flower: And, though it has long since lost its crimson, it still retains a partial similitude; for the tear is on it. But, alas! no cheering sun exhales my sorrow: And the crystal, which stole forth in the morning from my eyelids, holds its place at the midnight hour.

“And is love,” said I, “the canker-worm that has preyed on thy beauty?—Does that torturing passion make thee shed the ceaseless tear?”

“No,” replied Lucilla,—“Love gave me all its choicest blessings. During five years I rioted in them; and this world was a heaven to me. William, it is true, is no more; but he died in the field of honour—he is recorded with those heroes who fought and fell for their country. I bathed his wounds—his last words blessed me—and his expiring sigh was breathed forth in my bosom. I wept the briny tears of honest sorrow—but I had my consolation—my William loved none but me; and he still lived in the blessed image which he left me of himself.

“It was my duty, and soon became my sole delight, to point out to the darling boy the path in

which his sire had trodden, and to instill into his expanding mind an emulation of parental virtue. His young breast felt the glowing flame; and he was wont to weep when I led him to the grave which glory had dug for his father.

“ But he, too, is taken from me—he sleeps beneath this turf which I adorn with flowers—here my fancy feeds my sorrow; and this sacred shrine of affection I shall daily visit, till weary nature conduct me to my husband and my child.”

ANECDOTE OF THE EMPEROR SEVERUS.

A CERTAIN *Vetruvius Turinus* had insinuated himself into the good graces of the emperor. He abused his power by laying under contribution all those who solicited places or pensions. He often made them pay even for services which he had not done; and he frequently received money from opposite parties. *Severus*, informed of his odious behaviour, did not think it unworthy of his rank to hold out a snare to the avidity of this *unfaithful* minister, to obtain a clear and evident proof against him. Some one in concert with the emperor publicly demanded a favour, and implored secretly the support of *Turinus*;—he promised to speak of the affair but did not. The favour having been obtained, *Turinus* exacted a certain sum for the obligation, which was counted out to him in presence of witnesses. Then the emperor made him be accused. *Turinus* could not defend himself, nor deny a crime proved by the testimony of those who had been concerned in the negotiation. As *Severus*

wished to make an example of him, he brought before the judges a proof of a great number of crimes, equally odious, which the accused had committed, and which had remained unknown, because nobody dared to attack a man whose power was so great. The emperor thought that his severity could not be blamed; and to proportion the punishment to the crime, he ordered that Turinus should be tied to a post in the public market, at the foot of which a great quantity of green moist wood was placed, which, being lighted, produced nothing but smoke. Turinus was thus suffocated, whilst the public crier repeated with a loud voice these words: "He who has sold smoke, is punished by smoke."

ANECDOTE OF MARISHAL DE TOIRAS.

ON the eve of a battle, an officer came to ask permission of the marishal de Toiras to go and see his father who was on his death-bed; go, said that general to him, *you honour your father and mother that you may live long.*

ANECDOTE OF ALPHONSO KING OF ARRAGON.

ALPHONSO besieged Gayette, a city of Italy in the kingdom of Naples. As that place began to want provisions, they obliged the women, the children, the old men, and all useless mouths to depart. Alphonso received them directly into his camp; and when his officers wished to inspire him with less generous sentiments: "Do you think then," said he, to them, "that I came here to make war with women and children?"

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

THE following information will not perhaps be unacceptable to many of your readers. The truth of it may be depended upon, and can be attested by those who have visited the part of the world to which this intelligence relates.

At the Cape of Good Hope, the Dutch East India company, who are the sole masters of that delightful country, *let*, by public auction, every three years, the exclusive privilege of supplying the town with meat. The farmer of this important necessary of life, is not, however, allowed to demand what price he pleases for it. The price is regulated in the following curious manner. All the company's servants must be supplied in the first place, at the rate of one penny *per lib.* All the other Dutch inhabitants on shore, at twopence *per lib.* with the permission of exacting from foreign residents, and foreign ships, and even from Dutch men of war, fourpence *per lib. or more if necessary.* I need not comment, Mr Bee, on this instance of the talents of a commercial company, when employed as legislators of their foreign settlements. We have heard that some commotions have disturbed, of late, the tranquillity of the Cape of Good Hope, and that the inhabitants grow clamorous in their demands for a better government. Your readers will be inclined to believe the truth of these reports, and to judge how far the demand is reasonable.

Yours,

ANTI-FARMER GENERAL.

POETRY.

SONNET.

To the Editor of the Bee

WHEN morn breaks forth, and Sol's enliv'ning ray
Drinks from the flow'ret's eye the pearly tear;
Creation rings with varied grateful lay,
And strains melodious murmur far and near.

The clouds which floated on the blue expanse
Now stream with gold, and emulate the sun,
Then seek the waters, where the bright beams dance,
And hide their heads beneath the horizon.

Just so each sadd'ning gloomy thought doth fly,
When pleasure skims o'er the delighted brain,
And strikes the nerve which leads to gaiety,
And thoughts of love inspires a kindly train;
Ease feels th' infection, gilded dips in night,
And the full soul, unclouded, smiles delight.

A PHENIX HUNTER.

THE PLIANT MAID.

A song from a volume intended for the press, but not published.

For the Bee.

As o'er the green the other day
I walk'd to take the air,
I met a maiden by the way
Most beautiful and fair;
Her sparkling eyes were azure blue,
Her skin like lilies wet with dew.

As blushing by me she did pass,
My youthful heart did warm,
I said to her, "sweet lovely lass,
I mean to thee no harm:"
Still blushing sweet she nothing said.
'I ne'er beheld a sweeter maid.

I took her hand, O! heaven what joy!
Young cupid, from his bow,
Sent a sharp dart, that sly young boy,
That would not let me go;
I strove to part, but ah! my heart
Was wounded with his cruel dart.

At length the nymph, with a sweet smile,
 My aching heart did chear,
 The little god we did beguile,
 As we her cot drew near;
 My heart beat fast, my pulse beat high,
 I could not leave her, no,—not I!

We went into a neat thatch'd cot,
 Within it was complete,
 Which made me much envy her lot,
 It was so snug and sweet;
 The woodbine and the jessamine
 Around her lattice did entwine.

Young man, said she, I see your love
 Fast darting from your eye,
 And should you now inconstant prove,
 Ah me! I sure must die;
 To marry me, if you incline,
 Thy will shall be for ever mine.

I stood amaz'd! I could not speak,
 At finding her so kind,
 I kifs'd the rose bud on her cheek,
 And freely told my mind;
 The marriage articles were wrote,
 And now we both live in one cot.

Feb. 15. 1792.

A——, S——.

GLEANINGS OF ANCIENT POETRY.

A FAREWELL TO THE VANITIES OF THE WORLD.

FAREWELL ye gilded follies, pleasing troubles;
 Farewell ye honour'd rags, ye glorious bubbles;
 Fame's but a hollow echo, gold pure clay,
 Honour the darling but of one short day;
 Beauty, th' eye's idol but a damask'd skin;
 State but a golden prison to live in,
 And torture free-born minds; embroider'd trains
 Merely but pageants for proud swelling veins;
 And blood'ally'd to greatness, is alone
 Inherited, nor purchas'd, nor our own;
 Fame, honour, beauty, state, train, blood and birth,
 Are but the fading biossoms of the earth.

I would be great, but that the sun doth still
 Level his rays against the rising hill:
 I would be high, but see the proudest oak
 Most subject to the rending thunder-stroke:

I would be rich, but see men too unkind,
 Dig in the bowels of the richest mine:
 I would be wise, but that I often see
 The fox suspected, whilst the ass goes free:
 I would be fair, but see the fair and proud,
 Like the bright sun, oft setting in a cloud:
 I would be poor, but know the humble grafts
 Still trampled on by each unworthy ass:
 Rich hated: wise suspected: scorn'd if poor:
 Great fear'd: fair tempted: high still envy'd more:
 I have wish'd all; but now I wish for neither;
 Great, high, rich, wise nor fair; poor I'll be rather.

Would the world now adopt me for her heir;
 Would Beauty's Queen entitle me "The Fair;"
 Fame speak me Fortune's minion; could I vie
 Angels with India; with a speaking eye
 Command bare heads, bow'd knees, strike justice dumb,
 As well as blind and lame, or give a tongue
 To stones by epitaphs, be call'd great Master
 In the loose rhimes of ev'ry poetaster;
 Could I be more than any man that lives,
 Great, fair, rich, wise, all in superlatives:
 Yet I more freely would these gifts resign,
 Than ever fortune would have made them mine,
 And hold one minute of this holy leisure
 Beyond the riches of this empty pleasure.

Welcome pure thoughts! welcome ye silent groves!
 These guests, these courts, my soul most dearly loves:
 Now the wing'd people of the sky shall sing
 My chearful anthems to the gladsome spring:
 A prayer-book now shall be my looking-glass,
 In which I will adore sweet virtue's face.
 Here dwell no hateful looks, no palace-cares,
 No broken vows dwell here, nor pale-fac'd fears;
 Then here I'll sit, and sigh my hot love's folly,
 And learn t' affect an holy melancholy;
 And if Contentment be a stranger then,
 I'll ne'er look for it, but in Heaven again.

Sir H. Wotton.

VERSES TO HOPE.

CELESTIAL child, fair Hope! descend,
 And dwell within my humble bow'r,
 With heav'nly blis, my soul defend,
 In ev'ry dark desponding hour.

Far sweeter than the budding rose,
 Or fragrant smelling jessamine,
 From heav'n to me thy sweets disclose,
 Oh sacred, dear Hope! thy pow'r divine.

SILK REARING IN SCOTLAND.

IN answer to the queries of many respectable correspondents concerning the rearing of silk worms in Scotland, I beg leave to inform them, that this important object has never been lost sight of by me, but has been merely postponed, till I could give them some useful information, not merely extracted from books, which are, in general, not to be implicitly relied on in cases of this sort. I should consider it as a crime of great magnitude, if, under the idea of benefiting persons who have little to lose, I should heedlessly induce them to engage in hopeless experiments, in which, besides the loss of time, considerable expence might perhaps be incurred. For these reasons, however anxious I may be to promote the general introduction of this business, I shall ever proceed with caution, so as to avoid exciting hopes that may lead to premature exertions.

The great bar that stands in the way of the general introduction of that manufacture into this country in a short time, is the difficulty of procuring mulberry leaves in abundance. The voracious silk worms devour an inconceivable quantity of food, in proportion to their size. And though mulberry plants can be reared in great abundance from seeds, and though these plants will thrive very well in this country, yet that is a shrub of such slow growth, that it must be a good many years before a great many leaves could be got from young plants. Without relaxing in the culture of the mulberry, therefore, which, if once established, would continue to thrive for ever, I have been anxious to discover some method by which we might sooner get forward.

In the course of these inquiries I have found out two kinds of mulberries, not as yet known in Europe, which ap-

pear to be, in several respects, preferable to the two kinds we have, as they seem to be freer growing plants, and produce more luxuriant crops of foliage; one is called the Chinese mulberry, which has lately been found by my ingenious friend Dr Anderson of Madras, in several places on the Coromandel coast. This gentleman, without any communication with me, has, I find, for more than a twelve-month past, been actively engaged, from motives of humanity to the poor inhabitants of that country, many of whom I find are starving for want, in trying to introduce the rearing of silk worms in that country. This *Chinese* mulberry is represented by all his correspondents as carrying larger, and more succulent leaves, than either the black or the white mulberry of Europe, and growing much more freely than they do; it is of course universally cultivated in preference to them. I have written to him for some seeds of that sort, and if they come safe, shall order from thence abundant supplies for propagating in nurseries.

By the favour of Mr Pinkerton, of Kentishtown near London, a gentleman well known in the literary world, I have been put upon a plan of receiving more satisfactory accounts of the Tartarian mulberry, once slightly mentioned in the *Bee*; and shall write for that purpose, by the very first ship that sails for St Petersburg, and doubt not but, in due time, I shall receive seeds of that also. The plant is represented as growing wild in Siberia, so that there can be no doubt of its thriving here. It is represented as a more luxuriant and healthy plant than either of the European sorts. It is by no means impossible, but it may be the same plant that is known in India by the name of the Chinese mulberry.

But though both these promise to be beneficial to this country; yet the time when this shall happen is far distant, which is chilling to the hopes of man. Anxious to get over this difficulty, I have been very particular in my

inquiries, to discover if any plant could be with safety substituted to the mulberry as a food for the silk worm. Many persons think such inquiries nugatory, from some preconceived theories they have adopted on this head, but all such theories I despise; and, on this principle, I have been anxious in quest of facts only; and I have been so fortunate very lately as to discover one that promises to remove all our difficulties, if future experience shall confirm it.

Miss Henrietta Rhodes, a lady who has made some successful experiments on raising silk worms in England, had found that the silk worm could with safety be kept on lettuce for some time. This is pretty generally known by ladies who have turned their attention to this subject, but she found that, *in general*, they could not with safety be kept upon that food above three weeks. If longer fed upon that plant the worms for the most part die without spinning a web at all. She found, however, that they did not *always* die, but that, in some cases, they produced very good cocoons even when fed entirely on lettuce. She, therefore, with reason, suspected, that the death of the animal must be occasioned by some extraneous circumstance, and not from the poisonous quality of the food itself; the circumstance she suspected, from some incidental observations, was the coldness of that food, and, therefore, she thought it was not impossible, but if they were kept in a very warm place, while fed on lettuce, they might attain in all cases a due perfection.

General Mordaunt having been informed of this conjecture resolved to try the experiment. He got some silk worms eggs; had them hatched in his hot house, and caused them to be all fed upon lettuce and nothing else. They prospered as well as any worms could do, few or none of them died; and they afforded as fine cocoons as if they had been fed upon mulberry leaves. As far as one ex-

periment can go, this affords a very exhilarating prospect, in many points of view. If one kind of food has been noxious, merely because of an improper temperature, others may be found which have been hurtful only from a similar cause; so that it is not impossible but we may at last find that this delicate creature may be supported by a variety of kinds of food. Few, however, could be more easily obtained than lettuce; and this plant, when cabbaged, (the coss, or ice lettuce especially,) would possess one quality that the mulberry leaf never can possess, from the want of which many millions of worms die in those countries where silk is now reared; for it is observed, that when the leaves are gathered *wet*, it is scarcely possible to preserve the worms alive for any length of time; so that during a continuance of rainy weather many of them are unavoidably cut off; but a lettuce, when cabbaged, resists moisture. If gathered, even during rain, the heart of it is dry, so that, if the outer leaves be thrown aside at that time, the worms would be continued in perfect health. The expence, too, of cultivating and gathering lettuce, would be so much less than that of gathering mulberry leaves, as to occasion a saving that would be much more than sufficient to counterbalance the expence of heating the conservatory, as I shall prove below.

But the great point to be now ascertained is, whether it is a fact that worms fed on lettuce, if kept in a due temperature will continue in good health, in general, till they shall have perfected their cocoon. One experiment is too little to establish this fact with perfect certainty. I therefore now invite all persons who have an opportunity to make the experiment in the ensuing season, to do it, and to communicate the result to the public through the channel of this Miscellany. If it shall be found to answer, I shall then show in what manner proper places for rearing the worms could be erected, at a very small expence, and kept

heated to the proper degree, without any waste of fuel whatever. Such directions at present would be premature, and therefore they are postponed.

While I thus invite every well disposed person who has an opportunity to make the experiment, and offer my assistance to procure for those, who wish to do this, a few eggs, I am aware, that to persons who have had no experience in this business, especially if in a high station, where the detail of the management will, in most cases, devolve upon others, the experiment must often fail, from other circumstances than the noxiousness of the food. The report, therefore, of many an abortive attempt, in these circumstances, may be expected. If a few, however, succeed, such positive evidences are worth a thousand negatives in the circumstances here stated. I now wish to obviate in time, an objection that I easily foresee may come in the way.

INTELLIGENCE RESPECTING LITERATURE AND ARTS.

For the Bee.

NOTE concerning the valuable literary correspondence of John Bernoulli the elder, preserved by his posterity at Bâle, in Switzerland, communicated to the earl of Buchan by the learned John Bernoulli at Berlin.

1. The correspondence in French, between Mefrs de Maupertuis and John Bernoulli the elder, from the year 1730 to 1740, containing about one hundred very long letters.

2. Ditto in Latin with Mr Bilfinguyer, from the year 1720 to 1725, sixty letters.

3. The unpublished correspondence in French with the chevalier Renau, eight tracts.

4. Latin and French correspondence with Mr Michelot, from 1714 to 1725, one hundred and eight letters.

5. Correspondence in French, with Mr de l'Hopital, from 1694 to 1701, eighty-five letters.

6. Correspondence with Messrs the brothers *John James*, and *John Sheuchzer*, Latin and French, from the year 1706 to 1735, three hundred and forty letters.

7. Letters in Latin and French to the *Sheuchzers*, with their replies, from the year 1706 to 1732, one hundred and forty letters.

8. Correspondence in French with *Mr Varignon*, from 1692 to 1722, two hundred and forty-six letters.

9. Correspondence in French with *Mr de Crousaz*, from 1712 to 1724, forty two letters.

10. Correspondence in French with *Mr de Monmort*, from 1701 to 1719, forty-one letters.

11. Correspondence in French with *Mr de Moivre* from 1704 to 1714, nineteen letters.

12. Correspondence in French with *Mr Burnet*, from 1708 to 1714, thirty-one letters.

13. Correspondence in Latin with *Mr Wolffe* from 1706 to 1743, ninety-seven letters.

14. Correspondence in French with *Mr de Fontenelle*, from 1720 to 1730, nineteen letters. Also a long letter from *Mr Daniel Bernoulli* to *Mr de Fontenelle* in the year 1728, with remarks. Also remarks by *Mr John Bernoulli*, the elder, on *the infinite series* of *Mr de Fontenelle*.

15. Correspondence in Latin with *Mr Euler* from 1729 to 1742, twenty-four letters.

16. Correspondence in French with *Mr de Mairan*, from 1723 to 1740 about one hundred and twelve letters.

17. Correspondence in French with *Mr Cramer*, from 1727 to 1733, twenty-six letters.

18. A large packet containing the correspondence between *Bernoulli* and about fifty of his cotemporary geometers, &c. among whom are *Newton*, *Halley*, *Falconer*, *Leslie*, *Sloane* and *Woolaston*.

N. B. These MSS. were left by *Mr John Bernoulli*, professor of the mathematics at *Bale*, who died in the year

1790, and left them in property to his four sons, of whom the respectable Mr Bernoulli at Berlin is the eldest co-heir, and suggested, that as the whole collection is prepared for the press, if the lovers of natural philosophy and mathematics in Britain were to induce any booksellers to undertake publishing these letters in numbers, by way of specimen, and trial of their success, Mr Bernoulli of Berlin would engage to elucidate the letters with notes literary and biographical, and with fac simile of the hand writing of the authors; claiming for his reward no more than one guinea for each sheet of letter press, in the first instance, and more as the undertaking should be profitable to the publishers.

There are great treasures of a similar nature at Riga, Breslau, Hamburgh and other cities in Germany, which will be indicated hereafter, if these notices shall attract the attention of the learned and be called for through the medium of literary journals.

ANECDOTE.

IN 1542 (34 Henry VIII.) was published a book of the introduction of knowledge, the which doth teach a man to speak part of all manner of languages, and to know the usage and fashion of all manner of countries, and for to know the most part of all manner of coins of money, by Andrew Borde, London, 1542, 4to. dedicated to the lady Mary, daughter of king Henry VIII. by an epistle dated at Montpelier, 3d May same year. This book is written partly in verse, and partly in prose, contained in thirty-nine chapters; every one of which hath in its beginning the picture of a man, sometimes two or three, printed from a wooden cut. Before the first chapter, which treats of the natural disposition of an Englishman, is the picture of a naked man, with a piece of cloth lying on his right arm, and

a pair of scissars in his left hand, with a copy of verses printed under him, the two first lines of which are,

“ I am an Englishman, and naked I stand here,

“ Musing in mind, what raiment I shall wear,

Before the 7th chapter is the picture of the author, Borde, standing in a pew with a canopy over it, having a gown on, with sleeves a little wider than an ordinary coat, a laurel on his head, and a book before him on a desk.

“ I will tell you here how Sir Philip Calthrop purged John Drakes the shoemaker, of Norwich, in the time of king Henry VIII. of the proud humour which our common people have to be of the gentleman's cut.”

“ This knight bought, on a time, as much fine French tawny cloth as should make him a gowne, and sent it to the taylor's to be made. John Drake coming to the said taylor's, seeing the knight's gowne-cloth lying there, and liking it well, caused the taylor to buy him as much of the same cloth and price, to the same intent ; and farther bade him to make it of the same fashion that the knight should have his made of. Not long after, the knight, coming to take measure of his gowne, perceiving the like gowne-cloth lying there, asked the taylor whose it was? Quoth the taylor, it is John Drake's, who will have it made of the self-same fashion that yours is made of. Well said the knight, in good time be it. I will, said he, have mine made as full of cuts as thy sheers can make it. It shall be done, said the taylor ; whereupon, because the time draw near, he made haste of both their garments. John Drake having no time to go to the taylor's till Christmas day, for serving of customers, when he hoped to have worn his gowne, perceiving the same to be full of cuts, began to swear with the taylor for making of his gowne after that sort. I have done nothing (quoth the taylor) but that you bade me do. For as Sir Philip Calthrop's is, even so have I made yours. By my latchet, (quoth John Drake,) I will never wear gentlemen's fashions again.”

CHICORIUM. INTYBUS.

Experiments in agriculture, when conducted with judgement and perspicuity, are among the most useful publications. The following judicious experiments, therefore, I make no doubt will be attended to with satisfaction by all my country readers. The chicory plant was mentioned in this Miscellany sometime ago, as promising to become a useful food for cattle; and now, that red clover is found to be such a ticklish crop in many places, a good substitute for it is much wanted. No plant that has been hitherto recommended to the notice of the farmer, promises so well to answer this purpose as the *chicory*. But till farther experiments, shall have ascertained its value, the judicious farmer will not venture on cultivating it. From what follows it will appear, that this plant deserves to be particularly attended to, and to have all the peculiarities respecting its culture and uses fairly ascertained; for it is scarcely to be doubted, that, though it may be found to prosper abundantly on certain soils, it may prove of very little profit on others; I, therefore, cannot help wishing, that some of my agricultural readers would try some experiments on this plant, and communicate the result of them to the public through the channel of this Miscellany, or Young's Annals of agriculture, from which the following extracts are made. J. A.

Experiment 1.

SOIL, a wet sandy friable loam, on a clay marl bottom; hollow drained; level; worth 14 s. an acre. March 20. 1790, sowed oats on a cabbage preparation, on 16 square perch lying circularly, for the convenience of ploughing, and, at the same time with the oats, the following seeds on each perch:

No.	Seeds.	Propor. per acre.	No.	Seeds.	Propor. per acre.
1	Burnet, - - -	20 lb.	4	{ Timothy grafs, -	20 lb.
2	{ Alopecurus pratensis, } bu.			{ White clover, -	10
	{ White clover, -	10 lb.		{ Rib grafs, - -	10
	{ Rib grafs, - -	10	5	{ Chicory, -	10
3	{ Poa pratensis, -	20		{ Rib Grafs, -	10
	{ White clover, -	10		{ Trefoil, -	10
	{ Rib grafs, -	10	6	Chicory, -	10

No.	Seeds.	Propor. per acre.	No.	Seeds.	Propor. per acre
7	Chicory,	- - - 20 lb.	12	{ Chicory, - - - 10 lb.	
8	{ Chicory, - - - 5			{ Poa pratensis, - 10	
	{ Burnet, - - - 10			{ Rib grafs, - - 5	
	{ Trefoil, - - - 5		13	Lucerne, - - - 20.	
	{ White clover, - 5		14	Ditto alone, no oats, 20	
9	{ Chicory, - - - 10			{ Avena elatior, - 5 bu.	
	{ Alopec. pratensis, 2½ bu.		15	{ White clover, - 10 lb.	
	{ Rib grafs, - - 5 lb.			{ Rib grafs, - - - 10	
10	{ Chicory, - - - 10			{ Poa pratensis, - 10	
	{ Timothy, - - - 10		16	{ Poa trivialis, - 10	
	{ Rib grafs, - - 5			{ Avena elatior, - 10	
11	{ Chicory, - - - 10			{ Timothy, - - - 10	
	{ Poa trivialis, - 10				
	{ Rib grafs, - - 5				

The oats were mown at harvest, without account being taken of their produce, as they were not in contemplation. further than being the means of laying down.

May 20. 1791, some gentlemen, correspondents of this work, favoured me with their company, and assisted at mowing and weighing the crops.

Produce weight green.

No. 1,	-	86 lb.	No. 9,	-	71 lb.
2,	-	69	10,	-	78
3,	-	73	11,	-	111
4,	-	67	12,	-	125
5,	-	81	13,	} grafs and weeds.	
6,	-	88	14,		
7,	-	87	15,	-	113
8,	-	86	16,	-	102

Viewed them June 1st, not a drop of rain having fallen since the last cutting; numbers 2d and 9th were shot out most, that is the two numbers of the alopecurus. No rain.

till July 11th and 12th, when much fell. The 14th cut the chicory numbers again, the rest had nothing worth mowing.

Produce.

No. 5,	-	56 lb,	No. 9,	-	47 lb.
6,	-	74	10,	-	65
7,	-	65	11,	-	75
8,	-	53	12,	-	90

August 17, cut all again.

No. 1,	-	25½ lb.	No. 9,	-	23 lb.
2,	-	24½	10,	-	27
3,	-	23½	11,	-	32
4,	-	30	12,	-	38
5,	-	25	13,	} of no account.	
6,	-	30	14,		
7,	-	34	15,	-	31
8,	-	25	16,	-	26½

The after-grass was inconsiderable, except of the chicory, which might have been weighed, but I did not think such minutiae useful.

*Total Produce.**Produce per acre.*

lb.			Ton Cwt. lb.		
No. 1,	—	111½	—	7	19 32
2,	—	93½	—	6	13 64
3,	—	96½	—	6	17 96
4,	—	97	—	6	18 64
5,	—	162	—	11	11 48
6,	—	192	—	13	14 32
7,	—	186	—	13	6 22
8,	—	164	—	11	14 32
9,	—	141	—	10	1 48
10,	—	170	—	12	2 96
11,	—	218	—	15	11 48
12,	—	253	—	18	1 48
15,	—	144	—	10	5 80
16,	—	128½	—	9	3 64

I do not attribute the greater produce of numbers 11th and 12th to the addition of the plants sown with chicory,

for appearances would not allow that supposition; but to some accidental variety of the soil, or preceding culture; and the principal circumstance to be attended to, is the superiority of chicory, in general, to the other plants in general, which is remarkably great.

The reader will of course bear in recollection, the circumstance of the season being an uncommon drought, so that all crops of grasses, both natural and artificial, were as scanty as ever known. These crops of chicory amount, in this unfavourable season, from three to four tons of hay *per* acre, allowing it to lose three-fourths in drying; not that the plant is perfectly adapted to making hay *, but merely to mark the produce. One cannot but remark the enormous difference between this plant and lucerne; while chicory yields from ten to eighteen tons *per* acre, the lucerne is such a poor, puny, sickly thing, as not to pay for mowing the weeds which its weakness allows to vegetate!

Experiment 2.

The trial upon this plant, already registered in this work, (Annals of Agriculture) during three years, was this year cut, June 14th, produce 44lb. and August 18th, 28lb. in all 72lb.; or *per* acre, 23 tons 6 cwt. 80 lb.; a very considerable produce;—the extreme drought considered, much more than might have been expected. In four years the acreable produce has been 119 tons, or very near 30 tons *per* acre *per annum*! one of those years that of sowing, and another an extreme drought.

A general observation I shall make, which may be worth the attention of those who cultivate this excellent plant, which is, that it seems to flourish remarkably where

* I however made about half an acre this year into hay, the crop good, the hay, in so dry a season, made as well as any other, and is eaten by all live stock as readily

it has most room and air. The plants along the edge of paths, &c. are vastly superior. From this I should imagine, the drill husbandry would be the best for it; but to mow it, in that case, four times a year. I design drilling a field of it the ensuing spring.

A. Y.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE second letter of *Misobrontes* came to hand, and shall be duly attended to.

The hints of *M. A.* shall be duly attended to.—In a very short time some observations on silk rearing will appear in the Bee.

The letter from the *country school-master* is received, and shall have a place as soon as conveniency will permit.

The very judicious remarks by a *citizen* are thankfully received.

As are also the anecdotes by *Argus*.

The extracts by *Remeth Seal* are come to hand, this correspondent ought to have paid the postage of his letter.

The sly performance of *D. B.* is come to hand, and will appear as soon as our large arrears to others will permit. His farther correspondence is requested.

As also the favour of *Publicola*.

The second translation of Ovid's epistle to his wife is also received, which shall be inserted very soon.

The verses by *Æ.* are received, and *G. M.* It was altogether impossible to comply with the request of this correspondent, as this, and two other numbers, were partly set before his letter was received.

Matthew Bramble's odes are too carelessly written.

The anonymous verses to Fancy have considerable merit, but the writer has been so careless as to forget that he has changed his measure in turning the leaf.

One of the letters communicated by *Amicus* is too personal for insertion in this Miscellany, without considerable omissions. To the other no objection occurs.

A *citizen of the world* is received, and shall be inserted with convenience.

A large packet of valuable communications is received from a correspondent in Russia, of which a specimen will be given in our next.

Another is received from Denmark, the contents of which will appear soon.

The observations on entails are thankfully received, and shall appear with the earliest opportunity.

Reading memorandums by *B.* are also come to hand, and are gratefully acknowledged.

The beautiful Scots song "O tell me how to woo" is just received, and shall appear as soon as possible.

Also the ode by *Masca*,

The verses by *G. M.* and a reader are received, and under consideration.

The decisions on the competition pieces in our next.





A View on the water of Leith near EDINBURGH.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25. 1792.

HINTS RESPECTING THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS APPARENTLY DROWNED*.

It may be premised, that when the accident of drowning happens, the method of recovery should be recollected, and the articles that may aid in the business procured as soon as possible, as dry towels, blankets, warm water, one or more large vessels or tubs, cordials, &c.

Not more than six or eight persons will be wanted, and a greater number may produce confusion. The recovery of a person apparently drowned, may be attempted.

* These hints have been delayed longer than was expected, from an accidental circumstance that could not interest the public. They are written by a gentleman of eminence in the medical profession, who, from motives of humanity, has endeavoured to simplify the directions, so as to be intelligible to those who have no medical knowledge, and to abridge them as much as possible. These few pages will be found to contain the result of the practice that has been the most successful in a vast variety of cases, that have been communicated to the public in a great many volumes published in all the different languages of Europe.

- I. By restoring the usual heat of the body.
- II. By blowing air into the lungs, to assist nature in beginning anew the breathing.
- III. By rubbing the body, to promote the languid circulation of the blood. And,
- IV. By the application of certain stimulating substances, to excite the inactive powers of life.

The *order* in which the means of recovery should be employed, will vary a little in different cases. When the body is found, after having been a considerable time in the water, or if it have become very cold, the application of heat will be the best remedy to begin with ; for before the ordinary temperature be in a great measure restored, other remedies will be used with less prospect of advantage. On the other hand when the body has been but a few minutes submerged, and is not much chilled, blowing air into the lungs, friction, and *gentle* stimulants should be instantly employed, because most likely to do good. A few directions about using the means, and some cautions about other matters follow.

I. HEAT. On getting the body, directly remove its wet clothes, and wrap it in some dry covering, as the shirt and clothes of a person present, blankets, or the like. If the body be then found sufficiently warm, lose no time in using the other means, as directed afterwards ; but if it be cold, convey it gently in an easy stretched posture, placed rather on its right side, with its head somewhat supported, not greatly raised, to a warm apartment in the nearest house. The body may be placed in a warm bed, for the purpose of applying heat to it, by the naked skin of some per-

son lying down beside it, by hot bricks, or bottles filled with hot water, and covered with flannel, &c.; or it may be laid on a mattrafs at a proper nearness to any common fire; or, if convenient, it may be placed to the neck in warm water. For this last purpose, one part of boiling water to four parts of cold spring water will produce a sufficient degree of heat, since the skin need never be made warmer than its usual temperature in health, about 96° . or 98° . of Fahrenheit's thermometer, or that of new drawn milk. The heat should be always gradually, generally, and equally applied, and may be kept up as long as means are used.

II. INFLATION OF THE LUNGS. Air must be blown in either from the mouth of some person, or by a pair of bellows, through one nostril, the mouth and other nostril being kept shut. The air thrown in by bellows is preferable to that from the mouth, if as easily managed. The muzzle of the bellows will keep the nostril open, but a quill, or small pipe of any kind, or a piece of strong paper or pasteboard rolled up for a pipe, will be of use to distend the nostril when the mouth is applied.

On throwing in air, to prevent it from getting in to the stomach instead of the lungs, it is necessary to apply the hand to the foreside of the upper firm head of the wind-pipe, (commonly called *Adam's apple*,) and with a moderate force to press it directly backwards; for in this manner the gullet will be compressed, and the passage to the stomach stopped, while that to the lungs will remain open. When the breast is observed to rise by as much air having en-

tered as a person may be supposed to receive in common breathing, the blowing should be discontinued, and gentle pressure should be made upon the breast, that the air may be discharged. The inflation is then to be immediately set about, after which the air is again to be forced out by pressure; thus by alternate inflation and expulsion of air, natural breathing is to be imitated. It is unnecessary to hint that children will not require as much air to fill their lungs as adults. This remedy ought to be continued for a very considerable time, either till all hope be destroyed, or till marks of recovery decidedly appear. These marks are commonly imperfect and noisy breathing, irregular pulsation of the heart and arteries, and perhaps motion of some part of the body. The inflating may be *gradually* discontinued as the recovery advances.

Two particulars of some consequence may be attended to during the process of inflation.

I. Should a small quantity of thin liquor be present in the wind-pipe, or the inside of the lungs, which sometimes happens in drowning, it may be in danger of continuing the suffocation, or of rendering the attempts to renew breathing less efficacious. It will be proper, therefore, to turn the body on its side or face, and then to raise it in such a manner that the head may be low, and the fluid be discharged when the air is expelled. But if no liquor run out, or no rattling noise indicate its presence, after making two or more trials to evacuate, it may be right to desist from them.

II. Farther, should it be necessary at any time to interrupt the inflation for a few seconds, the lungs

are by no means to be left then in a collapsed or rather unfilled state ; but air is to be thrown in, and on leaving off, no pressure should be used to force it out. Since, however, the air will readily return from the lungs, frequent occasion must be taken to supply it.

III. FRICTION. The body is now to be rubbed with a warm hand, or with some soft substance, as flannel. The left side, near the heart, is advised by some writers to be especially rubbed ; but it may be doubtful how far it would be safe to solicit its action in any instance, till the advantage to be gained by it, be in some degree secured by the previous inflation of the lungs, or by the imitation of breathing. As one mean of applying heat, early but very *mild* friction of the skin may be allowable. Whenever natural respiration is imitated as already directed, moderate, general, constant and long persevered in rubbing is proper. This remedy may be continued even after the symptoms of recovery are pretty evident.

IV. STIMULANTS. Certain exciting substances may be occasionally employed, as snuff, smelling salts, spirits of hartshorn, by means of a feather, &c. to the nose ; table mustard and spirits to the skin ; glysters composed of milk-warm water, and a small spoonful of ground mustard or pepper, or of spirits and water, &c. Too much attention should not be paid to such remedies, lest the former more important means be neglected. Should the patient be so far recovered as to be able to swallow, some cordial, as warm wine, spirits and water, &c. may be given. Cordials ought to be employed at first *in very small quantities*, and *in every case they had better not be used at all than*

be used in an over proportion. Diluent drinks to promote perspiration, and at length entire rest, to procure sleep will be found of advantage.

Some *cautions* may now be subjoined.

I. Admit of no delay in the use of the several means of recovery. Every moment lost increases the danger of the drowned state, and the neglect of a very few minutes may render the recovery difficult, if not impossible.

II. Do not rashly conclude that the sufferer is irrecoverable. The signs of death have frequently been present, and yet the living principle has not only not been extinguished, but even capable of restoring the actions of life, *sometimes* of itself, but *often* with the assistance of very simple means. The Humane Society of London direct, that attempts should be made on all bodies that have not lost the marks of life above two hours; but though the time were doubled, hope ought not to be repressed, nor the means of revival be neglected. No bad consequence can possibly arise from the attempts to recover, even though they prove ultimately unavailing.

III. Avoid doing any violence to the person by the employment of rough means of recovery, as hanging the body by the feet, or rolling it on a barrel, or swinging it over a man's shoulder, &c. Several persons that have been harshly treated have thereby contracted fatal disorders after they had been recovered from their drowned condition. —

IV. If any ribs be found broken, or any part be bruised, take care of these in rubbing or in moving the body. In common cases the posture of the body may be fre-

quently varied with advantage during the use of means ; but if there are evident marks of injury that position which seems the best should be steadily preserved.

v. Lose no time by taking blood ; for this is perhaps *never* necessary but in very full habits. When recovery has been accomplished, there have been a few examples wherein bleeding has seemed beneficial, by removing a disorder in the breast, by obviating symptoms of pleurisy.

vi. *Use no strong stimulants* when the powers of life are weak. Emetics thrown into the stomach by means of a crooked pipe, and glysters of the fumes or of the infusion of tobacco, which nauseate, are of very doubtful use. Electricity, howsoever safe, or perhaps proper in the hands of medical men, can seldom be found by common assistants, is difficultly managed, and of precarious operation.

vii. Do not relinquish the attempts to recover for a long time, since after six or more hours some have been revived. It would be better in every instance to persevere till signs of putridity were discovered, than to desist where there appeared the most remote possibility of success.

viii. Though it be a case of suicide, refuse not your best assistance to the unhappy sufferer, and avoid all disagreeable reflections, especially during the weak state of incipient recovery.

ix. Never be unduly hurried, lest the business of recovering be done imperfectly ; but, through the whole, be steady and composed.

A VOYAGE TO THE HEBRIDES.

*Continued from p. 217.**Isle of Herries, Rowdil.*

JULY 19. Wind fair. After a passage of six hours reached Rowdil, in the isle of Herries, by 12 o'clock. Visited captain Macleod of Herries's operations at Portmore. This gentleman merits the fame of a second czar Peter. He has built a pier of 300 feet long, and 22 wide. He is building a second, to inclose the harbour. He has built a large storehouse, and over it a good inn, his present dwelling. He has formed gardens, walled round, of two or three acres, out of rocks and moss; made a good road from the harbour to a little town he is forming on the height, where there is already built a good house two or three stories high; and a manufacturing house for teaching children the art of spinning. Many wheels for spinning wool, are already provided,—a teacher of spinning daily expected. One of the upper rooms full of boys and girls, whom a schoolmaster was instructing in the arts of reading and writing. Some of them had made such proficiency in reading, that an English gentleman of the party said, few children at the schools in England, read with more correctness or less accent. There was, besides, a tolerable house he had occupied on his first coming to the island. Around these houses were thirty or forty huts occupied by the people, which he intends to demolish, and to give the people better houses in better situations. He had repaired a ruinous church at the expence of L. 300

or L. 400, which was burnt down by accident almost as soon as finished. He has built a small stout bark from fifteen to twenty tons burthen, and is building a flat bottomed lighter for transporting shelly sand from a neighbouring island, for improving the ground. All his artizans and work people are natives of the island of Herries. He has made a carriage road from Portmore harbour several miles into the island towards the western side of it, which is most fertile; nothing can exceed the ruggedness of the spot he has, on account of the harbour, been obliged to make the seat of his improvements. All appears stony hills, and mountains of granite; nevertheless, like the other mountains in the Hebrides, they contain more good pasture than they appear to do. Being himself far advanced in life, and rather infirm, he is assisted in his operations by a nephew of his own. Shewed us a model by which he intended to construct a mill for grinding corn, and for fulling cloth. Also some Herries wool, of a very soft and fine quality. In the church is a tomb of one of the ancestors of colonel Macleod of Macleod, dated 1528; not worth notice but for its rude sculpture of the figure of the galleys used by the chiefs of the islands in those days and long afterwards. It is called a long fader or long skip. Made a rough sketch of it. It rises high at stem and stern, has a rudder, one mast, a lug sail, and its sides pierced with holes for seventeen oars of a side; seems remarkably well adapted for the navigation of those seas.

Captain Macleod has also sounded the banks and coast between Herries and St Kilda, which lies some

leagues to the westward and belongs to Herries. He has shewn the people the right manner of catching cod, ling, and turbot, with which those seas abound. He has provided the fittest tackle for catching the carban, or sun or sail-fish, and has caught many of them. He has commissioned boats for his fishers, from Norway, and provided them in trawl-nets and herring-nets. He has built a large boat-house, for making and preserving his boats. This is covered with heath, which is both warm and durable. It is laid very thick, with the roots inwards; no turf is used but for the ridge; where straw is scarce, and heath universal, this is an important lesson to the country. No free-stone near;—the buildings are all of granite, worked with hammers into what form the mason chooses. His lime-stone is fetched twelve or fourteen leagues from Lochbuy in the isle of Sky; shells for making lime from the isle of Bara, thirty leagues off. The nearest custom-houses to Portmore are Stornaway, in the isle of Lewis; isle Marten, in Lochbroom; Fort William, and Oban, all at a great distance. There are certain winds, that during their continuation prevent his sending to any of them. His vessels with salt and coal are on this account often unseasonably detained, and the expence of those articles greatly enhanced thereby. In short greater efforts, under more discouraging circumstances, have seldom been made. Captain Macleod, though a modest man, seems to possess an enthusiastic love for his native island, and perseverance enough to enable him to overcome the difficulties which obstruct the accomplishment of his noble object, of introducing agricul-

ture, commerce, manufactures, and every useful art, into the island.

Herries is about twenty-four miles in length, and six or seven broad, containing at present about two thousand inhabitants. The present rent about L. 700, or L. 800, a-year; when the present lease of St Kilda expires, for it makes part of the lease of a tacksman, he means to exact no other rent from the inhabitants but what they can easily afford to pay in feathers, and to give them perfect freedom. Such is captain Alexander Macleod, to whom it has been found impossible not to devote a few pages of a journal, meant merely as a register of dates and names*.

Loch Tarbat.

Slept on board, wind N. E.—cross Loch Tarbat. July 20. Visited west Loch Tarbat, towards the north end of Herries. The vessels anchored in east Loch Tarbat. The distance between the two only seven or eight hundred yards of flat ground. The name Tarbat, not unfrequent in the Highlands, is derived from two Gaelic words, meaning *to draw a boat*. Boats can easily be drawn by men from the one loch to the other. Visited Loch Boononetter a fine harbour within west Loch Tarbat. The proper fishing station, however, is between the two lochs, where there is some cultivable land, for gardens at least; on

* This gentleman is now dead, otherwise much of what is said concerning him would have been omitted. It is now a just tribute to his memory. He seemed to the writer of this journal to have discovered, with uncommon penetration, both the physical and political causes which have hitherto prevented the improvement of the Hebrides; moral ones he always said there were none, for the inhabitants were a frugal, industrious, and most faithful race of people, whenever placed in circumstances that gave them an opportunity of displaying those virtues.

each side, high, bare, rocky mountains. At Loch Boononetter, captain Macleod of Herries's foresters brought the party two stags. The largest when gutted weighed one hundred and thirty pounds. Four or five foresters had been out in quest of them four days and nights in a forest, where were neither houses nor people; their sole provision one peck or eight pounds weight of barley meal, till they killed a deer, when they fed upon its intrails. Captain Pierce hooked a salmon which broke the line, and carried off his only hook, in a very stony rough river, that runs into Boononetter. On reporting his disaster, one of the foresters took an iron hook with a wooden handle, assigned all the party their stations to throw stones into the brook, spied the salmon, struck it with the iron hook, threw both on the bank of the river with unparalelled acuteness and agility. He had just returned from the forest, fatigued with carrying one of the deer on his back three miles through a horrid road.

There is a salmon fishing in the bottom of west Loch Tarbat. Herrings are frequently taken here, and cod and ling abound in the seas adjacent. It were to be wished the society made a settlement here, captain Macleod tendered them the spot at the present rent, or gratis. The facility with which the inhabitants might fish on either the Atlantic ocean or the Minch, is a great inducement. The harbour swarms with cuttle or ink-fish, which pursue the herring fry to the surface, then seize them in their hand, for so their mouth may be called; it has many long fingers, and the mouth is situated in the palm of the

hand, in the centre of those fingers. The mouth has a bill like a parrot's. Some of the party had eaten these fish in the Mediterranean. They were ordered to be prepared according to the Mediterranean fashion, but never dressed. It is the gristly bone only that is said to be eatable. The fish itself is not bigger than a herring.

The herrings in west Loch Tarbat, are said to be larger than those on the east side,—a strong argument for an exterior fishing. Last year, it was said, an Irvine bufs, by pushing through the dangerous sound of Herries, got into west Loch Tarbat, and in a short time made three cargoes. Evening dead calm.

In the house where the deer was brought to the party, were found most of the utensils used in the Hebrides for agriculture and domestic use. A chafsi-croomb for tilling the ground by manual labour, a straight spade for digging it, a rustil or sharp piece of iron for cutting the furrows, a sack made of straw for holding corn, a straw carpet for spreading it upon, a quearn or hand mill for grinding it, an iron pot for boiling their victuals; the fire-place in the middle of the house, with dogs, cats, ducks, and poultry surrounding the fire. The mistress of the house, a decent lady, had never seen a growing tree. "You are a native of this island, madam?" "By no means, I came to it on my marriage; but I came from the isle of Sky, and never saw any thing larger grow than a broom bush." "From whence came the trees that make the roof of your house?" "From the woods." "What woods?" "The woods of Afsynt to be sure."

July 21. Windbound.—Rowed and towed the three vessels down to the harbour of Scalpa,—cast anchor,—remained there all day.

Bill of fare, captain Pierce's salmon, captain Macleod's stag venison, and grouse. In the evening caught many red cod, and cuttle-fish. The ink of which is fine and flows easily, very black.

To be continued.

ANTIQUITIES IN SCOTLAND.

CONJECTURES CONCERNING THE USE TO WHICH THOSE
ANCIENT CIRCULAR BUILDINGS, FOUND IN SCOTLAND,
CALLED DHUNES, WERE ORIGINALLY APPROPRIATED.

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Places for worship.

SINCE, therefore, these buildings could neither have been employed as fortifications, nor as watch towers, nor as private habitations, it is scarcely possible they could have been intended for any other purpose than that of religious worship. I am therefore inclined to believe, that they must have been the *temples* of some of those nations which once inhabited the regions where they now are found.

According to this hypothesis, we meet with none of those difficulties we found on every other supposition. As they were not intended for defence against an enemy, it was not necessary they should be situated in a place naturally strong and difficult of access: As they were not intended to give signals of distress, it was not necessary they should be placed in a conspicuous situation: As they were not meant to be the habitation of princes, it was not necessary that they

should have conveniencies suited to the accommodation of a family : But as they were devoted to the worship of the deity, no expence in rearing them would be reckoned too great, nor any labour be deemed a hardship when it was applied for such a pious purpose. In *Peru*, where the habitations of individuals, at the time of the Spanish conquest, were poor and insignificant, and so perishable as to have fallen long ago into total ruin, their *temples*, somewhat similar in their form and mode of building to those which now claim our attention, were built in such a massive manner, and, with infinite art and labour, were so firmly compacted together, as still to remain the objects of wonder and astonishment to all who behold them. In this view, therefore, we meet with nothing contradictory to common sense, and the general experience of mankind : And were we acquainted with the form of worship of the people who reared these structures, we should probably be able to see the obvious uses of those peculiarities which now to us appear inexplicable.

But for whatever tribes of people these structures shall have been built, it seems to be pretty certain that it could not be for any people who followed the worship of the ancient druids, as it was practised in *Mona*, and other places where that system of religion prevailed ; for in none of these places have any vestiges of temples of this sort been discovered, nor any hints that could induce us to believe they ever employed any such. By the best accounts their places of worship never were bounded by walls, but their religious rites were always performed in the fields,

within the shade, indeed, of secret groves, which conferred upon them that kind of solemn gloom that seems to have been in general considered as favourable for exciting in the mind impressions of devotion. Whether the circles of loose detached stones, to be met with so frequently in the northern parts of Europe, constituted a part of the druidic ritual, as has been generally supposed, or whether they were the temples of another class of religionists, or whether they were merely courts of civil justice, I mean not at present to inquire; but as these differ in many of the most essential particulars from the dhunes, I think we must conclude, that these last were built by a people who professed a religion different from that which was in general practised, either by the inhabitants of south Britain, or by the greatest part of the inhabitants of Scotland, before the introduction of Christianity into those regions.

Where *certainty* cannot be attained in inquiries of this nature, it is allowable to make use of such helps as lead only to *probable* conclusions. With this view, in examining the poems of Ossian, I have met with several hints that some may perhaps think will tend to unravel this mystery a little. *Scandinavia* is often mentioned in these poems, and always in terms which denote that the religion of that country was very different from that which prevailed in Britain before the days of our bard. The religion of that people is always represented as being accompanied with circumstances peculiarly awful and tremendous; and their worship is said to have consisted of incantations which drew from their suppo-

sed deity responses to their prayers, accompanied with apparitions that were fitted to appall the boldest, and with sounds that could not fail to impress the minds of a rude people with the most reverential awe.—“High broken rocks,” says Ofsian in the poem of Sùl Malla of Lumon, “high broken rocks were round with all their bending trees. Near were two circles of Loda with the stone of power, where spirits descended at night in dark red streams of fire. There, mixed with the murmur of water, rose the voice of aged men. They called the forms of night to aid them in their war.” This spirit of Loda which they worshipped, was believed to be all powerful in battle, as appears from the following passage: “He called,” says Ofsian, speaking of Starno king of Lochlin, “he called grey haired Snivan, that often sung round the circle of Loda, when the stone of power heard his cry, and the battle turned in the field of the valiant.”

Here we have described, not only the *object* of their worship, but the form of their ceremonies also, and the nature of their apparitions. Aged men sing round the stone of power,—they call the forms of night to aid them in their war,—these spirits of night descend in dark red streams of fire. This spirit of Loda is still more particularly described by Ofsian in the poem of Caricthura: “A blast,” says he, “came from the mountain, which bore on its wings the spirit of Loda. He came to his place in his terrors, and he shook his dusky spear. His eyes appear like flames in his dark face, and his voice is like distant thunder.”

From all these descriptions the reader may easily perceive that the spirit of Loda was worshipped in Scandinavia, as a powerful deity, by magical songs and incantations, and that sometimes he appeared in streams of fire, or in other forms, and sometimes uttered voices, or sounds of thunder. "Far from his friends, it is said, they placed him within the horrid circle of Brumo, where often it is said, the ghosts of the dead *bowled* round the stone of their fear." With these ideas in our mind, let us take a view of the particular structures of which I now treat, and consider how properly they were calculated for producing the effects here described.

In the centre of the circular area we may suppose *the stone of power*, as it is generally called, though sometimes *the stone of their fear*, was placed. The great height of the walls, (some of those remaining being still forty-five feet high,) would occasion a gloomy shade, well calculated to impress the mind with a reverential awe. At night the meteors of heaven, seen obscurely through the aperture at top, aided by a powerful imagination, might occasionally represent frightful forms and living objects. The numerous holes, too, opening from the galleries inward, all round, and the many divisions between the top and bottom, might be so employed as greatly to heighten these impressions. When dark, persons concealed in these, by means of lights flashing occasionally athwart in different directions,—by figures moving with dim lights, forming eyes in their dark face,—by groans, howlings, and noises, adapted to the occasion, and accompanied by such appearances as an

artful priesthood might invent, and such as could be easily played off by means of this peculiar kind of apparatus, the mind of an ignorant worshipper, prepossessed with false notions, might be impressed with what ideas they pleased. Half formed words might be heard, and all the dreadful apparatus, calculated for impressing the minds of ignorant men, might be displayed with irresistible power. The oracles of Greece, by arts of deception, which, when compared with this grand apparatus of power, seem only calculated to impose upon children, kept the most enlightened nation of antiquity in blind thralldom for ages. How great, then, must have been the fascinating power of these more artful northern sages.

That these circles of religious worship, among the Scandinavians, were not open on all sides, but consisting of close walls, like the buildings we now treat of, and were occasionally employed as a prison, may be learnt from a passage already quoted, where Ofsian, speaking of Grumal, (*Fingal* b. vi.) who was overcome by the king of Craça, one of the Zetland isles, adds, “ Far from his friends, they placed him in the horrid circle of Brumo, where often they said the ghosts of the dead howled round the stone of their fear.” Here it would seem they left the prisoner alone, without so much as a guard to secure him, without any intimation of his being even bound. “ They placed him there,” and left him alone in that frightful solitude, which the poet describes with so much energy.

When all these circumstances are adverted to together, I think there is as full proof as can be expected

in matters of such remote antiquity, in unlettered times, that the buildings of which we now treat, were temples erected in honour of those gods that were worshipped in Scandinavia. What adds still greater weight to this conjecture is, that these buildings are to this day called by the common people *Picts' houses*, and it is well known that the people called *Picts* were anciently of Scandinavian origin. They are found too only in the Zetland and Orkney isles, and in the northern parts of Scotland, which, by being nearest to Scandinavia, were probably first peopled from thence, and often visited in future times by the Scandinavians; and even till of late, many of them were subjected to the power of Norway. They abound in Norway.

I pretend not, however, here to explain all the difficulties that might be started on this subject. It appears that *in general* these structures were called circles of *Loda*, and that the spirit there worshipped was called the spirit of *Loda*; yet we find in *Ossian* frequent allusions made to another temple of the same kind, that was called the circle of *Brumo*, which was placed in the isle of *Craca*. It is probable, however, that the circle of *Loda* was the generic name by which all the temples of this kind were known, because in all of them the spirit of *Loda* was worshipped; but that each individual temple might have its particular name, by which it was distinguished from all others; and that the circle of *Brumo* might be only a particular name for one of the circles of *Loda*. This circle of *Brumo*, however, seems to have been eminently distinguished for the wildness of its

situation ; for it is *often* characterised by the epithet *horrid*, and the gloominess of the grove that surrounded it. That such a grove did actually surround it we learn from the following passage : “ He (*i. e.* Grumal) poured his warriors on the sounding Craca ; and Craca’s king met him from his *grove* ; for within the circle of Brumo he spoke to the stone of power.” It is probable that most of these temples might then be placed within a grove, to add to the gloomy reverence of the place. The situation of one of these, and the picturesque scenery around it, is thus described in the poem of *Caricthura* : “ A rock bends along the coast,” says Ossian, “ with all its echoing *wood* ; on the top is the circle of Loda, and the mossy stone of power ; a narrow plain bends beneath, and the blue course of the stream is there.” The scenery here, excepting the wood, which is not often found surrounding these structures now, is in general the same with that where they are now found. Another striking feature that I long ago * remarked, occurs in the following description of another of these structures. “ High broken rocks,” says Ossian, in the poem of Sul Malla of Lumon, “ were round with all their bending trees. Near were *two* circles of Loda, with the stone of power, where spirits descended at night in dark red streams of fire. There, *mixed with the murmur of waters*, rose the voice of men, &c.” In the description of these structures, just quoted, which I made at the time from observing the object alone, without having any reference to the works of

* In the year 1776, in a letter published in the transactions of the Antiquarian Society of London.

Ofsian, I took notice of it as a singularity pretty remarkable, that two or more of these structures were usually near to each other, and also that they were in general placed very near to some water. It is impossible for me to form any conjecture concerning the reason of this proximity of these temples; but that it is often to be observed cannot be denied; and this circumstance, with the others, seem to point out these descriptions of Ofsian, as peculiarly appropriated to the structures of this sort that are still preserved.

It deserves here also to be noted, that from an accurate examination of the different structures of this class that still remain, it appears that they have not all been divided exactly in the same manner within, in lesser particulars, though the general plan is much the same. Those that are of large dimensions seem all to have had stairs, and most of them galleries within the thickness of the wall; and wherever these are found, the whole of the openings are towards the inclosed circular area, and none of them outward; but the form of the internal cavities, the number, the size, and the disposition of these openings, differ in different places. It seems from hence probable, that the superintending priests or architects, at the time of their erection, ordered these lesser matters as best suited their own fancy.

A few observations on another kind of dbunes will be given in a subsequent number.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATE.

Few countries possess a greater diversity of picturesque scenery than Scotland; and few parts of Scot-

land can be compared to the vicinity of Edinburgh, and the frith of Forth in that respect. In many other places, romantic scenery may be seen to greater perfection. The mountains are there more stupendous, the vallies are deeper, and the rocks more wild. But here, though the country be in general flat, the fields fertile, and the view extensive; yet the beds of the rivulets are so steep, their banks so rude, and the trees growing out of them with such a wild luxuriance of nature, that a traveller is at one moment amused with the prospect of a wide extended, cultivated country, and in another minute he feels himself in the midst of a solitary dell, overhung with rocks and woods, without one single object in view that could make him believe he was not at a great distance from the seats of man, or peopled towns.

The plate, which accompanies this number, exhibits a view on one of those romantic dells, within a mile of Edinburgh. In the fore ground is the Water of Leith, winding along in its narrow vale; the banks on each side are fringed with trees, and the castle of Edinburgh towering above the whole; so that from this point of view, it appears to be a rich highland country, highly wooded. Had the painter moved a hundred yards from the place where he stood, and turned to another side, a vast extended scene would have lain before him, rich in corn fields and pastures, interspersed with villas, and distant spires, with only a few tufts of trees, to give diversity to the lights and shades, and distant hills, to serve as a contrast to the extended vale.

READING MEMORANDUMS.

Continued from p. 224.

It is an endless and frivolous pursuit to act by any other rule than the care of satisfying our own mind in what we do. There is no state of life so anxious, as that of a man who does not live according to the dictates of his own reason.

What can be added to topics on which successive ages have been employed? The hope excited by a work of a man of genius, being general and indefinite, is rarely gratified.

When debtors exert themselves to the utmost to do justice, humane creditors will accept their endeavours; and their probity will compensate, in a great measure, for what they cannot make good.

I know not any crime so great, that a man could contrive to commit, as poisoning (or confounding) the sources of eternal truth.

Infamy ought to be attached to an unchaste woman! We hang a thief for stealing a sheep: But the unchastity of a woman transfers sheep, and farm, and all from the right owner. If a single woman is licentious, you will rarely find her faithful in marriage.

A man may write at any time, if he will set himself doggedly to it.

To be continued.

POETRY.

VERSES ON HAPPINESS.

For the Bee.

Is there a man who ne'er has sorrow known,
Nor felt the pang of fickle fortune's frown?
Is there a prince or peer of noble birth,
Who ne'er knew care disturb the hour of mirth?

I fear alas! to search for such is vain:
The rich, the poor, alike of fate complain;
'Tis not in pow'r nor riches to bestow
One happy moment *which* but grief should know.

Who is it then that feels the *least* distress?
Who has more joys, or who fears evils less?
Who does most hours of happiness enjoy?
I look me round, and fain would say the boy.

Without a sigh, we think he spends the day,
From play to school, from school again to play,
And seems not e'er a pensive hour to pass;
But 'tis not so, he also feels distress.

The boy is still the miniature of man,
He has his views, so lays his little plan;
If unsuccessful, then his little cares
Depress his mind, yet tender as his years.

We look to youth, and hope we there shall see
A mind more calm, from anxious care more free.
Here too we err;—the youth ambition fires,
And racks his heart with numberless desires.

He only views the pinnacle of fame,
Of flatt'ring pow'r and an immortal name,
But while he gazes on with eager eyes,
Another gains the *envied* bauble prize.

Thus disappointment all his hope destroys,
Breaks his proud heart, and blasts his promis'd joys,
Then is his temper sour'd and manhood spent,
A scene of fretful, peevish discontent!

Now let us cast our eyes on hoary age,
Here features grave no happy heart presage;
The feeble body and the wrinkl'd brow
Would seem to say, here dwells no pleasure now.

Yet we conjecture wrong; his bosom glows
 With no wild passion, nor ambition knows;
 'Tho' his pursuits have unsuccessful been,
 Yet is he chearful; yet his mind serene.

'Tho' ne'er his foot has enter'd fortune's door,
 And during life been destin'd to be poor;
 These bring not sorrows on the aged head,
 So soon to rank among the silent dead.

His course is run;—life's goods or evils seem
 Not much distinguished, but an empty dream;
 The scene is past; unending joys await
 His rising spirit in a future state.

Æ.

VERSES TO THE MEMORY OF THE UNFORTUNATE MISS BURNS.

For the Bee.

LIKE to a fading flow'r in May,
 Which gard'ner cannot save,
 So beauty must some time decay,
 And drop into the grave.

Fair Burns, for long the talk and toast
 Of many a gaudy beau,
 That beauty has for ever lost
 Which made each bosom glow.

Think fellow sisters on her fate,
 Think think how short her days,
 Oh! think and e'er it be too late,
 Turn from your evil ways.

Edin. Nov. 26. 1791.

A.—S.

ON BEAUTY.

For the Bee.

OH! beauty what a pleasant thing
 Thou art unto the eye,
 'Tho' hundreds have thy praises sung
 With greater glee than I.

Still if a loving heart can claim
 A tender bosom sigh,
 With freedom I that boon may crave
 So give it little i.

A.—S.

NOTICES CONCERNING JAPAN,

FROM THE WORKS OF MR THUNBERG, LATELY PUBLISHED AT
STOCKHOLM IN THE SWEDISH LANGUAGE.

No civilized nation on the globe is so little known by Europeans as Japan. For about two centuries past all access to it has been prohibited to Europeans. The Dutch are the only people who are permitted to trade thither from this hemisphere, and they are so strictly guarded as to have no other intercourse with the natives but what is absolutely necessary for their commerce. They are permitted to have one factory only, upon a small island called *Degima*, which by Mr Thunberg's account is only six hundred feet in length, and about two hundred and eighty in breadth. It is surrounded on all sides by a high wall, having one gate only towards the city *Nangasaki*, and another towards the port. The first is shut every night, and carefully guarded by Japanese soldiers even during the day, the other is only opened to admit the merchandise to be landed when it arrives, or to be put on board before the vessels depart. On passing the guard towards the city, every person, whether native or Dutch, is searched carefully at going in and out; so jealous are the Japanese, lest the Europeans, by their intrigues, as formerly, might endanger the public tranquillity.

Mr Thunberg having gone thither in a Dutch vessel, was extremely desirous of getting information respecting the present state of that country; and with great difficulty, and bribes distributed with the most cautious secrecy, and by the help of an old Portuguese and Japanese vocabulary he accidentally met with, was enabled to pick up so much of the language as in some measure to understand it. He, at length, by means of an affected ignorance and simplicity of manners, obtained permission to herborise a little in the neigh-

bourhood of *Nangasaki*, in which employment he found means to pick up a little information from the natives. He likewise was allowed to accompany the Dutch ambassador to *Jede* and *Miaco*, the two capitals of that empire, where he had an opportunity of observing a few things with his own eyes. But he owns that the greatest part of his information was picked up from the interpreters with whom he sometimes conversed, for which he was obliged to pay them liberally and keep the secret with the greatest care.

The Japanese year finishes on the 18th of February, on which day all debts ought to be paid. For by what he could learn, it seems to him that unless these debts were then liquidated they could no longer be legally claimed. The new year is celebrated with great feasting and various rejoicings; at that time also they trample the emblems of the Christian religion under foot, a practice, he thinks, that was originally instituted with a view to discover those who were secretly inclined to favour the Europeans at the time of their expulsion; and has been kept up ever since, in compliance with that jealous policy which their fears induced them to adopt when they were in danger of suffering by European intrigues. This gave rise to the report universally circulated, that the Dutch were obliged always to trample on the cross before they were permitted to land, which he says is one of those popular errors to be met with every where.

Mr Thunberg saw several of the Japanese temples. The most remarkable bears the name of *Daibud*; it is a vast building, supported by ninety-six columns, of which those that support the principal floor are six feet in diameter. It has two roofs, one above the other, and by the description it seems in some respects to resemble some of our Gothic churches. It has several doors, which are extremely high in proportion to their width; and in the middle of it is

placed a gigantic figure sitting cross-legged in the oriental manner. This figure occupies the whole space between the central ranges of columns which is from thirty to forty feet. In another temple called *Quammen* he was told there were no less than thirty-three thousand three hundred and thirty-three monstrous human figures, having many arms each, arranged in such a manner as to make a beautiful perspective.

Mr Thunberg had an opportunity in passing through a city called *Osaca* to see a Japanese drama acted. It was conducted in a manner not very different from our own; and in the pantomime dance he thought they particularly excelled.

In returning to *Nangasaki* the month of June, he saw in the evening as if it were an infinite number of moving stars sparkling around him. This phenomenon was occasioned by a little winged insect, which he called *Lamphyes Japonica*, whose body terminated in two bladders which produced in the dark a phosphoric light, as the glow-worms in Europe.

After having given an account of his journey, he arranges the information he obtained concerning this country under different heads, forming so many distinct chapters, of which what follows is a slight abridgement.

The quality of the soil and the nature of the climate of Japan.

The country consists chiefly of mountains and vallies; there are very few plains. In some places you find the hills covered with wood, in others, they are cut into terraces, and cultivated with the greatest care. The soil is far from being naturally fertile, but by dint of manure and cultivation it produces abundant crops. In the summer the heat is very strong, and in the winter the cold is also sometimes very rigorous; it is coldest there when the

wind is in the north or north-east. The rains are very frequent, particularly during the summer solstice.

Description of the person of the natives.

The Japanese are of a comely personage, strong limbed; with much ease and activity; of a yellowish complexion, in which sometimes a black colour predominates, sometimes a whiter. The women, as they do not expose themselves to the heat of the sun are pretty white. Their eyes are stretched out and half open, which gives the look a great degree of delicacy. The colour of their eyes is generally black, also their hair, and eye-brows, which latter are supposed to be placed higher than those of Europeans. Their head is large, their neck short, their hair thick and shining with oil, their nose is short and pretty large.

Character of the nation.

The Japanese is sensible and prudent, polite towards his equals, obedient to his superiors, without being slavish. Their government is far from being despotic, but the laws are very severe. In their families they are laborious, economical, and sober, being very fond of clean linen; otherwise they are attentive, curious and much addicted to superstition. There is much cordiality and sincerity in their correspondence; but their vanity is very easily hurt; and when they think themselves ill used, they are very revengeful. They have a great deal of national pride. In war they are brave but untractable; as to the above Mr Thunberg gives us proofs taken from the history of the country, and many anecdotes relating to their distrust towards strangers; we know upon what that is founded, and there are few countries where inhabitants are more upon their guard against an invasion. In order to prevent all intercourse with strangers, the natives are severely forbid going out of the kingdom, and when once they are out, they dare never return.

Language.

The learned men of the nation use the Chinese language, because their sciences are borrowed from China ; but the vulgar language resembles it so little, that a Japanese and a Chinese cannot understand one another without an interpreter. Their letters are also very different, although in both languages each single character expresses a word ; and they write in vertical lines, or lines running from top to bottom. When a native of Japan signs any act, he begins with his family title, and then his own name, which he often changes at a certain age, according to his employment and any other remarkable incident of his life.

Dress.

Both sexes wear long robes, and they pretend that the fashion of their dress has not varied for two thousand years. Those of the women are trailing, and commonly made of gauze, some plain, others embroidered, and so fine, that they wear from thirty to fifty plies, above one another, and they are so very light that the whole together scarcely weighs five pounds. A large ribbon round her waist sets off her shape ; the married women tie it before, the young women behind.

Manner of building.

The houses of the Japanese are generally built of wood and mortar ; on the outside they are white and resemble exactly those built of stone ; in the inside, instead of walls for dividing the apartments, they use folding screens, made of a strong kind of paper, which they move about and make as many apartments as they chuse. The windows are of white paper, sometimes oiled, which admits the light very well, but one cannot see through them.

Mr Thunberg, in another volume, proposes to give an account of the religion, the government, and the public œconomy of this empire, which the public will wait for with impatience.

He likewise proposes to publish in a separate work his observations in botany, and the discoveries he made in that science in the course of his travels.

THE USES AND CULTURE OF THE POPPY,
AND MODE OF OBTAINING OPIUM FROM IT IN EUROPE.

IT is an advantage for the farmer to have his choice of as great a variety of plants to cultivate as possible, because he may thus adapt his conduct to suit the peculiarities of seasons and circumstances, on many occasions with great propriety. If the season of sowing one crop prove unfavourable, that crop may be abandoned without loss, as another equally advantageous may be substituted in its stead. He may adapt his crop on many occasions to suit the circumstances of his situation. If he be near a great market, bulky articles which cannot be brought from a distance but at a great expence, will afford *him* a very abundant return. If he be at a great distance from that market, he may have profit in cultivating articles that are very light, and of great value. The carriage of a crop of weld, for twenty miles, might cost more than the whole prime cost of the crop; the produce of an hundred acres of opium, might perhaps be transported on one horse; therefore it could admit of being cultivated, with nearly equal profit, in the wildest part of the highlands of Scotland, at perhaps the distance of an hundred miles from any market, as at the gates of the most populous city. Were we acquainted with several other articles of the same kind, it is hard to say what a spring it might give to the industry of this country.

It has been long known that opium is an inspissated juice obtained from the poppy; no plant admits of being more easily cultivated in Europe than the poppy; yet we

never have been able to supply ourselves with this valuable drug ; all the opium used in Europe has been hitherto obtained from Asia alone.

It is many years since this object attracted my notice ; but upon inquiring into the mode of extracting the opium from the plant, I found the directions were such as did not admit of its being collected with any prospect of profit. It has always been said that the juice should be extracted from the seed capsule, by making incisions in it while yet green ; but this requires such nicety in the operation, and the quantity of juice that exudes from it is so small, that the expence of collecting that juice becomes very great. A gentleman in America, however, by proceeding with a bolder hand, has found that opium may be as easily obtained in our climates as in any other, and probably in as great quantities and at as small expence.

Instead of cutting the seed capsule only, having observed that the whole plant contained the same kind of juice, he at once cut off the head of the poppy, when in its highest degree of succulence, immediately after it had done flowering, as close to the seed vessel as possible : The juice, immediately after amputation, springs out from the neck very freely. It soon accumulates in considerable quantity, and becomes a thick darkish coloured paste, that heals up the wound, and prevents more of it from exuding. When it has attained this state, he again cuts off the top of the stem, carrying home all the pieces thus cut off, where they are left to dry at leisure. A fresh bleeding again commences, which in its turn gradually stops as before. The stalk is again cut over, and the same process is repeated as long as any juice exudes from the wound, in sufficient quantity to pay for the collecting of it. In this way may be obtained, perhaps, a hundred times the quantity of opium from a single plant, that ever could be got from the

capsules alone, and that perhaps at less than one tenth part of the expence.

When the juice has acquired a proper degree of thickness upon the pieces cut off, it is scraped from them in the house, and made up into lumps of a proper size, and when it becomes sufficiently dry, it is carried to market. By this simple process, opium may be obtained in any part of Europe with as much facility as in Asia, and of as good a quality.

Having thus taught my readers how to extract opium from the poppy, it may not be improper to give a few directions for the cultivating of this plant.

Culture of the poppy plant.

Every gardener knows that the poppy grows very easily in every cultivated soil, if the ground be made fine; (the richer it is, no doubt the more luxuriant will be the crop,) the seeds may be sown in drills, very thin, at about one foot from each other; the plants will soon come up. As soon as weeds appear, let the interval between the rows be hoed with a hand hoe. When the weeds begin again to appear, let it be hoed a second time; and now thin out the plants in the rows, so as to let them stand at not less than six inches from each other. Thus treated, they will prosper abundantly, and no other care is required but to keep down all weeds with the hoe, should any appear. After the plant has advanced to that stage of its growth, indicated before, let it be treated as above, and the business is finished.

In the Netherlands, great fields of poppies are cultivated for the sake of their seeds, which are there employed as an article of food, and are esteemed a great delicacy. The seeds are not in the smallest degree narcotic, or deleterious, as I myself have often experienced; and there are few seeds more generally pleasing to the palate in their

natural state, or I believe more nourishing. The produce of seeds from an acre is very considerable. From these seeds also may be extracted an oil which is esteemed for some purposes.

Where the *seeds* are the object, the culture should be in every respect the same as has been indicated above. But in this case, the tall white poppy only, should be reared, as the pods of this kind are large, and all ripen nearly at the same time. But when *opium* is the object in view, the black or carnation poppy, whether double or single, ought to be preferred, as that kind produces a greater quantity of heads, and continues longer in a succulent state than the other.

ON THE CULTURE AND USES OF WELD, OR DYER'S WEED.

Réseda luteola.

THIS is one of the plants of easy culture, and general consumption, which has hitherto escaped the notice of the British farmer, to the great prejudice of our manufactures. It affords a durable dye, of a bright yellow colour, and forms the basis of greens, and many other colours both to the dyer and calico printer. The consumption of it so far exceeds the quantity raised in this country, that it has been lately proved, before the House of Commons, that upwards of sixty thousand pounds a-year go out of this country annually for this single article alone; and as this is a very bulky article, that cannot be transported to a distance but at a very great expence, the carriage alone may amount to half the whole of the price, so that it comes to the manufacturers at more than double the price it could well be afforded for if raised by our own farmers.

Weld is of such easy culture that it may be reared in every country with the utmost facility. In dry and barren

soils it grows naturally small and fine in the stalk, and these weakly plants are found to afford the finest dye. In richer soils, however, in which it would naturally attain to a larger size, it is easy to give it the same dwarfish stature, and the qualities that adhere to it, by the simple contrivance of sowing the seeds pretty thick; so that in every situation it may be reared. Even in deep moist soils, which are not naturally well adapted to the growth of weld, it may be reared on the banks of hedges where scarcely any other plant could be made to thrive.

This plant, if sown early in the spring, is an annual, as in that case it flowers and perfects its seeds that same season; but if it be sown after midsummer, or in a situation that prevents it from vegetating freely at first, it is like turnips, and many other plants; biennial, in that case remaining green throughout the winter, and flowering, and perfecting its seeds in the ensuing summer.

To have an annual crop, sow the seeds in the month of March, upon any waste corner you may find convenient; all that is absolutely required for insuring a crop is that the soil be free from root-weeds. If the ground be light, sandy, or poor, the seeds should not be sown very thick, otherwise the plants will not attain a proper size; but if it be a rich field, the seeds should be sown pretty thick, in order to prevent them from attaining too large a size. When they appear, the annual weeds should be pulled out by the hand. The plant will flower in the end of May or June, and perfect its seeds in July.

When the seeds in the lowest pods begin to harden, and the whole plant to assume a yellowish cast, it is time to gather the crop. As the whole of the plant, root, stalk, and leaves are employed in dying, it ought to be pulled up by the roots when ready, in the same manner as is practised with regard to flax. It may be tied up in single handfuls,

by one of the stalks of itself, and set on its end to dry, three or four bundles in one place leaning towards each other at top to prevent them from falling down. If the seeds are wanted, the tops should not be turned downward during these operations, to prevent them from being lost; for as the capsules are open at the top the seeds drop out whenever the plant is put downward after they have attained maturity.

If the plant is intended to be a biennial it may be sown either by itself or with some kinds of spring corn; by itself it may succeed a crop of early pease, or other crop that comes off the ground in the month of July. If sown with barley, its growth will be so much retarded as to prevent it from flowering that season. In either of these cases it will resist the winter's frost perfectly well, and come to flower in the spring; but I should in general prefer the spring culture, which I have never seen to fail.

If it were cultivated merely for the sake of its seeds, it ought to be sown in autumn, and the plants set by the hoe, to six or eight inches a part, if on a good soil, and in these circumstances it becomes a very strong robust plant, rising to four or five feet in height, and yielding a prodigious quantity of seeds; but as such robust plants are not esteemed by the manufacturer, and as seeds can always be obtained in abundance, merely by shaking the plants, it is never adviseable to cultivate them in this manner after the plant has been once introduced into any place.

When it is thoroughly dry it may be put up in a stack or carried to market. It is in this state it is in general employed; but when it grows upon the spot it may be used by the dyer in its green state, though it is only employed by the calico printer after being dried. The demand for it is so great at present, that a single house in Manchester makes use of at least eighty tons in a season; the

price runs at present from 3 s. 6d. to 4 s. 3d. per stone, of fourteen pounds.

Weld is so very favourable for bees, that I have known some persons cultivate it chiefly on that account. Wherever it grows there is a perpetual hum of these active insects through the day, and it seems to be all alive.

It is cultivated pretty much at large in Essex, and some parts of Yorkshire, and is reckoned a meliorating crop. It does very well to precede wheat, as it comes off the ground in good time for that crop.

The sweet smelling plant called mignonette is of the same genus, and probably possesses similar qualities. It is equally favourable for bees; but it does not admit of being so easily cultivated.

The Editor has been obliged to Mr Charles Taylor of Manchester for some of the hints respecting this plant.

ON THE LIFE-BUOY.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Bee.

MY attention is sometimes attracted by the buzzing of the Bee, on the wing of which I find always painted, directions for the recovery of drowned persons, but not a syllable with regard to the prevention of persons drowning.

Sailors are amongst the most active sets of men, the life of commerce, and the great bulwark of Britain; yet they seldom sip the honey of your Bee till they come along the coasts, when the wind and waves run so high as to overwhelm boats in the attempt of saving life. When the bird in the fable saved the bee from drowning, by bending the branch of a tree, why should your Bee, so famous for philanthropy, delay to be grateful, by making an addition to the directions for the recovery of drowned persons, by strenuously recommending the use of the life-buoy to all:

masters and owners of ships, for the prevention of persons drowning.

The life-buoy is a log of wood, having a twelve pound shot hung to its under side, on the upper side a small flag staff. To the log is fastened a line, many fathoms long, and wound on a reel. The whole apparatus is suspended from the stern of the ship, quite clear of incumbrance. When a sailor drops over board, the life-buoy is let go, and the ball keeps it steady in its place, and the flag-staff points out to the swimmer in the waves where to steer his course; whilst the ship drifts or runs many miles through the sea, nothing is necessary but to pay out the line to the buoy, and by the time the vessel gets round you have the sailor on the buoy, and thus is his life preserved.

I have only to add that if you will please look into the Star paper of London, dated 30th of May last, you will there find an accident related from real life, and the use of the life-buoy much wanted. The insertion of this accident in the Bee will not fail to enforce the above, and at the same time give general satisfaction to the public *.

POUR L'AMITIE DES MATELOTS.

ANECDOTES.

COUNT D'AUBIGNE, grandfather of madame de Maintenon had a great deal of generosity in his sentiments. Henry iv. reproaching him one day for showing himself to be the friend of S. de la Tremouille, disgraced and banished the court, "Sire, answered d'Aubigné, M. de la Tremouille is unfortunate enough since he has lost the favour of his

* I have not been able as yet to recover that paper-

master. I thought I ought not to abandon him when he had most need of my friendship."

Sully entering the house of Henry iv. one morning, at the time the king's mistress was going out, dressed in green he found him out of order, and said to him; Sire, your majesty appears to me not to be very well. It is true said the king, I have had a fever all night, and have only just got rid of it. You say true, replied Sully, I saw it pass: it was all in green.

Alphonso king of Arragon traversed without attendants and on foot the streets of his capital. When they represented to him the danger to which he exposed his person, "A father, answered he, who walks in the midst of his children has nothing to fear."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE important packet from Copenhagen is thankfully received, and the useful information it contains shall be soon communicated to the public.

Perimitator is informed that the paper about which he inquires contains nothing that is not generally known.

The Editor begs pardon of a *Citizen of the world*. The essay about which he inquires was received, and soon shall have a place. It was marked as already acknowledged.

Verses by *Academicus* are received and under consideration.

As are also the verses *I. T.* by *A. I.* and by *Q. D. C.*

Thanks for the old poem of Pompey's ghost, though it seems not a correct edition. If any of my correspondents can furnish a correct copy of this poem it will be deemed a favour.

The verses by a *Friend to liberty* are on a subject that has been so much hackneyed of late, that the public are become extremely fastidious respecting it.

The ode on the death of *Eira*, and several other pieces, are received.

THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2. 1792.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

THE first four volumes of the Bee have reached your subscribers in Russia this autumn, and I must own that we were far from being prepossessed in its favour, from the reports of some young gentlemen who had read the first part in Britain. However, I can by no means subscribe to the censure of my young acquaintances, nay I even suspect that the part which furnished them least entertainment, is that which will recommend it the most to a large class of your readers, for the following reasons:

In forming the plan of a periodical publication, on such a moderate scale of expence as to suit the largest possible circle of readers, it is certainly proper to take into consideration, not only the state of the country, with regard to its progress in letters, but likewise in agriculture, commerce, and the useful arts, before we are able to determine what species of instruction they stand most in need of.

First, as to the state of Scotland with regard to letters, surely no country, either ancient or modern, ever boasted a more brilliant groupe of classical authors than it does at the present period. The works of Robertson, Hume, Dalrymple, Henry, Gillies, Ferguson, Watson, Thomson, Guthrie, Stewart, Pinkerton, in the highest walk of literature, would have done honour to the Augustan age of Rome, or of any other country; and it may be said with truth, that, independent of their superior stile of composition, and philosophical view of their subjects, they have made a new epoch in history, by their uncommon attention to authorities, and their research into the archives of Europe, where much important information was reserved for the enlarged views and liberality of the eighteenth century. Possibly this general remark on the veracity of modern history may suffer an exception in the elegant, philosophic, but sceptic Hume, who had none of those ties upon him which give law to the conscience and veracity of the Christian historian, as he has shewn in his controversy with the respectable and able champion* of an unfortunate queen, whom he had too harshly treated†. In the line of ethics, surely the names of Smith, Hutchison, Ferguson, Reid, Campbell, Blair, Beattie, &c. do equal honour to Caledonia‡; nay it is hard to say what walk of literature has been neglected.

* William Tytler esq. of Woodhouselee.

† Perhaps our ingenious correspondent goes too far here; but every one should judge for himself. *Edit.*

‡ In political œconomy, Smith and Stewart will long occupy a conspicuous place.

Criticism of late years, and classical learning* in all times, distinguished the north of the Tweed; and as to the sciences, the reputation and crowded classes of the Edinburgh university, (were there not others in the country,) are strong evidences of their flourishing, equal at least to any other branch of learning. Even your claim to poetry, to which the genius of the country has been sarcastically supposed not very favourable, is supported by some illustrious names. The noble translator of Virgil (Gavin Douglas bishop of Dunkeld,) was unrivalled in the day he wrote; and Buchanan has had no equal since the Augustan age. The Scotch Virgil, too, Thomson, is a phalanx of himself; nor has the modest bard reason to shun competition with his more affluent southern cotemporary†, shining in all the splendour of borrowed metaphysics and original caustic wit, whilst poetic imagery, lively description, and painting after nature, shall be held the criterions of that art; nor will I give up our favourite Allan Ramsay at the frown of your commercial dictator‡, (whose censure, by the by, would equally affect Theocritus the model and father of pastoral,) especially as a friend of that truly great man, see vol.iii. p. 166, assures us, “ That he had neither an ear for music, nor any perception of the sublime or beautiful, in either poetry or prose.” Is it possible to pass this

* Perhaps Scotland is distinguished from other nations, more by the general knowledge of letters among the lower ranks of her people, than by the depth of her classical learning. There is not a person here, among ten thousand, who cannot read, and very few who cannot write and cypher.

Edit.

† Pope. ‡ Adam Smith author of the *Wealth of Nations*.

subject, without feeling for the hard fate of our great writers, who, after saying so many fine things in their life, are doomed to say so many silly things in their graves. It is a pity Adam Smith's friend had not extended his remark to another great talking spirit, who has filled two quarto volumes in his tomb; as it would have accounted for his amazing severity on the northern Homer, Gray, and some other of the most beautiful English poets. Humour, the Scotch have been thought still more destitute of than poetry; but surely no man since the days of the English Cervantes, Hudibras, has been so distinguished for it as Smollet*.

It appears then pretty evident, Mr Editor, that it is not in letters Scotland is deficient, on the contrary I have always heard her sister kingdom comment on the general diffusion of learning and morality, in a greater or lesser degree, through all ranks of people, which they attribute to the cheapness of schools, with the constant residence and assiduity of a class of men who do much honour to their cloth and holy mission. I wish we could say as much for the state of commerce, agriculture, and the useful arts in Scotland †; for I am afraid it is in those that it does or ought to feel its inferiority to England, and some countries on the continent, more than in learning, morals,

* Nor will Arbuthnot be forgotten so long as the memoirs of Scriblerus shall be read.

† My ingenious correspondent will be glad to be told that in respect to agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, Scotland has advanced more within these last twenty years, than it had done for a century before that; and were those bars removed which impolitic laws have thrown in the way of her industry, this little country bids fair to advance in improvements with a rapidity that has been hitherto equalled perhaps in no age or country.

manners, and taste, the ordinary topics of the periodical papers which have hitherto existed ; so that it appears, at least to a man at my distance, that a cheap vehicle to convey useful information to the husbandman and artist, is the great desideratum of Scotland in its present state ; and that such a publication promises to be more useful than half a dozen Spectators, Ramblers, and Mirrors, to remark, collect, and reflect, the moral and physical state of man in all his modifications, habits, elegancies, and oddities. However, as it is but fair that all classes of readers should be pleased, I give you credit for the large space you have left, and uncommon encouragement you have offered for the species of writing so much desired by the gayer part of your subscribers ; and that you may fill both, to the instruction and amusement of the public, is the hearty wish of

*Imperial cadet corps in St Petersburg,
Nov. 24. 1791.*

ARCTICUS.

P. S. I have read with much pleasure the patriotic exertions of my Petersburg acquaintances, Sir John Sinclair, and the earl of Hopeton, (for the range of their inquiry has taken in even this distant part of Europe) to meliorate the British wool. Indeed the list of your society, in its full extent, distinguished the patriotic exertions of the British aristocracy, (to use a fashionable expression,) from that of all other countries of the globe. These are the arms to combat the wild fanaticism of modern levelers, whom Johnson wittily remarks, are all eager to level every one down to themselves, but not to raise themselves up to the level of others, as he demonstrated by his humorous experiment in the famous republican historian.

SIR, *To the Editor of the Bee.*

I LIVE in the country on a small estate of my own, and having a numerous family, (ten sons and four daughters,) I find some difficulty, though my wife be an excellent œconomist, to make both ends meet at the close of the year. I am not much given to reading, but when I saw the proposals for your work, I became a subscriber, in hopes that I might find some information in it, respecting a subject that has, for several years past, very much occupied the minds of my wife and myself,—that of chusing proper businesses for our sons; but hitherto, though I have derived information from it on other points, I have got none upon that head, at which I have been not a little disappointed. I hope you will give us some observations on that subject; for it is a very interesting one to me, and I dare say to many others of your readers.

Not having heard from you on this subject, and being pressed by the advancing years of our elder boys, I wrote to a friend of mine, an advocate in Edinburgh, who sometimes spends a week or two with us in autumn, to take the diversion of shooting. His answer, though it did not altogether suit my views, may perhaps prove agreeable to some of your readers. I therefore send it enclosed, with permission to do with it whatever you please. I am, &c.

ALEX. SIMPLE.

The LETTER referred to above is as follows.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

You ask my opinion about the best business for your sons. This is a subject I am less prepared to

enter on than many others you might have proposed ; but as you are much interested in the case, and as I am at all times sincerely disposed to serve you, I shall throw out such observations as occur, for your consideration.

I have taken a sort of hasty retrospective survey of all the kinds of business I know that can be carried on in this country, with a view to discover those in which the greatest number of persons have attained wealth in business, and who have begun the world with a small stock ; and I find the result of the inquiry is, that experience clearly proves, that ten people acquire riches from nothing, by becoming b—k—rpts, for one that acquires wealth in any other manner.

Having thus ascertained the main point by the unerring test of experience, I next set myself to discover what were the talents required, and the circumstances necessary to insure success in this *hopeful* business ; and fortunately I find that neither a great stock in money nor unusual talents are required. Two or three genteel suits of clothes, made in the neatest fashion, a good *friseur*, a smart hat, a stately step, and courtly carriage, rather on the high tone, accompanied with that kind of *modest assurance* that prevents any of those whimpering, half-apologising tones, which country boobies are so apt to assume when they think they are to ask a favour, are all the capital and talents required. Thus accomplished, a man may dash at once into business. He hires a genteel house and shop, does the gentlemen he condescends to deal with, or their agents, the honour to invite them sometimes to eat a bit of dinner with him,

has every thing there in the most elegant stile, treats them like a nobleman ; and, to conclude the business properly, does them the superlative favour to order two or three hundred pounds worth of goods, in preference to many others who have been applying for his custom. Thus do both parties separate with mutual satisfaction.

The above is all that is required at the outset ; but a little more address becomes necessary in a short time. Bills must be granted for the goods received, and these bills must be retired regularly when they fall due ; this requires a degree of attention and a knowledge of business that cannot be at once acquired. A clerk properly qualified, must therefore be procured : And luckily this kind of business has been so long practised here, that there will always be some of this description to be found, who have been regularly bred to it, who may be engaged. These necessary accomplices in business must indeed be well paid for their trouble ; but the emolument their employer derives from their labours is such as to entitle them to a very genteel allowance. These gentlemen, acquainted with all the fictitious modes of supporting credit, which the superlative refinement, ingenuity, and taste of the present age have devised, take care for some time to provide a constant supply of cash to answer all legal demands with the utmost punctuality. No matter if this cash be obtained at the enormous expence of forty or fifty *per cent.* loss on certain transactions ; as they well know that this loss must ultimately be sustained by others, and not by themselves, let these others look to this. It is none of their own

business. To augment their credit, and to get into trade upon a very large scale ; to live like a lord, and to be courted by the dependent fools who have so much money as not to know what to make of it ; or to go snacks with those, who, like themselves, enter into liberal speculations, to promote the trade of this country, at the expence of the old *bunks* who have not spirit to tread the stage of business in a masterly manner, is all that they need to think of.

In this train things go on for some years, till they have obtained a character for *liberality*, *generosity*, and *spirit* in trade, which no other class of persons can lay claim to, and have thus secured a great number of friends among bankers who have profited by their numerous transactions, and dealers who are in the same train of adventurous career with themselves. They at last stop payment. If their clerks however have been clever, and themselves alert, care will have been taken to make out such a state of their affairs as will bear the investigation of a general meeting of creditors. Many of these creditors are indeed irritated to a high degree ; but these are for the most part persons of small note in the mercantile world, whose growlings are little attended to in a general meeting, where some dashing member, who hopes to derive a like favour from some such friend at a future day, offers certain propositions, that are acceded to by some others who entertain similar hopes, and possess great influence. Thus the humble non-contents ashamed to speak out, growl only in secret, and dare scarce so much as hint a dissent to the vote proposed.

Humanity is such an amiable virtue as none but a brute would venture to oppose its dictates. "None but barbarians could think of insulting the unfortunate:—The poor man who lived at the rate of a thousand pounds a-year; what shall be allowed him now? The most obdurate heart cannot think two or three hundred too much. Even with this, what a sad reverse!" Such is the language held out to meetings on similar occasions; and thus it comes, that the man who enters life, without any reasonable prospect of ever having one hundred pounds a-year to live upon, acquires a right to three times the sum, by the *humanity* of those very persons, many of whose families he has reduced to the most abject misery.

It is very hard, indeed, if the man who has acted this part cannot, moreover, find *one* friend in whom he can confide, for kindly lending his covering aid to help him to some future provision, which shall secure to his family a more permanent establishment than that which his narrow circumstances, and his little experience of the world, rendered practicable at first. For some time, indeed, if he is a cautious man, he lies by, seemingly contenting himself with the *slender* allowance that has been allotted to him. But by and by, he begins to enter into new enterprises, conducted with greater caution, indeed, than before, and on somewhat different principles, because he has now *something to lose*. He gradually extends his transactions more and more,—acquires a character for judiciousness in business, that must insure success; by this means he usually acquires property before his death, that entitles his son to become a competitor

for a seat in parliament, and dies respected and regretted by all.

This, my dear friend, is a picture of *the world as it goes*,—I think a very just one; so that if any of your sons can get free of that *mauvaise honte*, (I am obliged to go to France for this very expressive and very fashionable phrase,) which their father possesses in too high a degree, I think you need to give yourself no uneasiness on the head. Your younger boys, trained up at the foot of this Gamaliel, will soon make a wonderful progress; and as to the girls, they will become so fine in this brilliant society as to be courted by some fashionable lover, who never would have looked at one of them had you offered the half of your estate with her, had she continued to live with yourself in the humble stile you would insist upon; and will honour you with an alliance without demanding a single sixpence from you, in hopes of obtaining something from the *great* brother?

Thus, my good Sir, I have pointed out, in as few words as I could, the easiest way that I can devise for putting all your family into genteel employments, without costing yourself one farthing; and for acquiring to them such affluence as they can have otherwise no title to expect. If you do not follow this plan, the fault must be your own. I think I have done *my* part so well as to entitle me to receive some bottles of your best claret, which I shall come to claim from you next shooting season. Till then farewell.

Edinburgh 15th Jan.

1792.

JURIDICUS.

THOMSON'S LAST LETTER TO PATERSON, WRITTEN A SHORT TIME BEFORE HIS DEATH, IN THE BEGINNING OF MAY 1748*, FROM THE ORIGINAL IN THOMSON'S HAND-WRITING FOUND AMONG HIS PAPERS BY HIS EXECUTORS, NEVER BEFORE PRINTED.

DEAR PATERSON,

No date.

IN the first place, and previous to my letter, I must recommend to your favour and protection Mr James Smith, searcher in St Christophers; and I beg of you, as occasion shall serve, and as you find he merits it, to advance him in the business of the customs. He is warmly recommended to me by Sargent, who in verity turns out one of the best men of our youthful acquaintance,—honest, honourable, friendly, and generous.

If we are not to oblige one another, life becomes a paltry selfish affair,—a pitiful morsel in a corner! Sargent is so happily married, that I could almost say,—*the same case happen to us all!*

That I have not answered several letters of yours, is not owing to the want of friendship, and the sincerest regard for you; but you know me well enough to account for my silence, without me saying any more upon that head. Besides, I have very little to say that is worthy to be transmitted over the great ocean. The world either futilises so much, or we grow so dead to it, that its transactions make but feeble impressions on us. Retirement, and nature, are more and more my passion every day. And now, even

* Paterson was Thomson's deputy as surveyor of the Leeward islands.

now, the charming time comes on: Heaven is just on the point, or rather in the very act, of giving earth a green gown. The voice of the nightingale is heard in our lane.

You must know that I have enlarged my rural domain much to the same dimensions you have done yours. The two fields next to me; from the first of which I have walled—no, no,—paled in about as much as my garden consisted of before; so that the walk runs round the hedge, where you may figure me walking any time of the day, and sometimes under night. For you, I image you reclining under cedars and palmettoes, and there enjoying more magnificent slumbers than are known to the pale climates of the north; slumbers rendered awful and divine by the solemn stillness and deep fervors of the torrid noon! At other times I image you drinking punch in groves of lime or orange trees, gathering pine-apples from hedges, as commonly as we may black-berries, poetising under lofty laurels, or making love under full spread myrtles.

But to lower my stile a little. As I am such a genuine lover of gardening, why don't you remember me in that instance, and send me some seeds of things that might succeed here during the summer, though they cannot perfect their seeds sufficiently in this, to them ungenial climate, to propagate; in which case is the calliloo, that, from the seed it bore here, came up puny, ricketty, and good for nothing. There are other things certainly with you, not yet brought over hither, that might flourish here in the summer time, and live tolerably well, provided they be sheltered in an hospitable stove or greenhouse during the

326 *Thomson's last letter to Paterson. May 1,*
winter. You will give me no small pleasure by sending me, from time to time, some of these seeds, if it were no more but to amuse me in making the trial.

With regard to the brother gardeners; you ought to know, that as they are half vegetables, the animal part of them will never have spirit enough to consent to the transplanting of the vegetable into distant dangerous climates. They, happily for themselves, have no other idea but to dig on here, eat, drink, sleep, and kiss their wives.

As to more important business, I have nothing to write to you. You know best the course of it. Be (as you always must be) just, and honest; but if you are unhappily romantic, you shall come home without money, and write a tragedy on yourself*. Mr Lyttleton told me that the Grenvilles and he had strongly recommended the person the governor and you proposed for that considerable office, lately fallen vacant in your department, and that there were good hopes of succeeding. He told me also that Mr Pitt had said that it was not to be expected that offices, such as that is, for which the greatest interest is made here at home, could be accorded to your recommendation; but that as to the middling or inferior offices, if there was not some particular reason to the contrary, regard would be had thereto. This is all that can be reasonably desired: And if you are not infected with a certain Creolian distemper, (whereof I am persuaded your soul will utterly

* Paterson had tried his hand on a tragedy at London without much success.

resist the contagion, as I hope your body will that of their natural ones) there are few men so capable of that unperishable happiness, that peace and satisfaction of mind at least, that proceed from being reasonable and moderate in our desires, as you are. These are the treasures dug from an inexhaustible mine in our own breasts, which, like those in the kingdom of heaven, the rust of time cannot corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal. I must learn to work at this mine a little more, being struck off from a certain hundred pounds a-year which you know I had.

West, Mallet, and I, were all routed in one day. If you would know why,—out of resentment to our friend in Argyll-street. Yet I have hopes given me of having it restored with interest some time or other.—Ah! *that some time or other* is a great deceiver.

Coriolanus has not yet appeared upon the stage, from the little dirty jealousy of Tullus* towards him who alone can act Coriolanus†. Indeed the first has entirely jockeyed the last off the stage for this season; but I believe he will return on him next season, like a giant in his wrath. Let us have a little more patience, Paterson; nay, let us be chearful. At last, all will be well; at least, all will be over,—here I mean: God forbid it should be hereafter! *But as sure as there is a God that will not be so.*

Now that I am prating of myself, know that, after fourteen or fifteen years, the Castle of Indolence comes abroad in a fortnight. It will certainly travel as far

* Garrick.

† Quin.

as Barbadoes. You have an apartment in it, as a night-pensioner; which you may remember I fitted up for you, during our delightful party at North-haw. Will ever these days return again? Don't you remember your eating the raw fish that were never caught?

All our friends are pretty much in *statu quo*, except it be poor Mr Lyttleton. He has had the severest trial a humane tender heart can have; but the old physician, Time, will at last close up his wounds, though there must always remain an inward smarting.

Mitchel* is in the house for Aberdeenshire, and has spoke modestly well; I hope he will be in something else soon; none deserves better;—true friendship and humanity dwell in his heart. Gray is working hard at passing his accounts,—I spoke to him about that affair. If he gives you any trouble about it, even that of dunning, I shall think strangely; but I dare say he is too friendly to his old friends, and you are among the oldest. Symmer is at last tired of quality, and is going to take a semi-country house at Hammersmith.

I am sorry that honest sensible Warrender (who is in town,) seems to be stunted in church preferment,—he ought to be a tall cedar in the House of the Lord. If he is not so at last it will add more fuel to my indignation, that burns already too intensely, and throbs towards an eruption. Peter Murdoch is in town, tutor to admiral Vernon's son, and is in good

* Afterwards envoy to Berlin, and Knight of the Bath.

hope of another living in Suffolk, that country of tranquillity, where he will then burrow himself in a wife, and be happy. Good natured obliging Millar is as usual. Though the doctor increases in his business, he does not decrease in his spleen; but there is a certain kind of spleen that is both humane and agreeable, like Jacques in the play; I sometimes too have a touch of it. But I must break off this chat with you, about your friends, which, were I to indulge it, would be endless.

As for politics, we are, I believe, upon the brink of a peace. The French are vapouring at present in the seige of Maestricht, at the same time they are mortally sick in their marine, and through all the vitals of France. It is pity we cannot continue the war a little longer, and put their agonizing trade quite to death*. This siege (I take it) they mean as their last flourish in the war. May your health, which never failed you yet, still continue, till you have scraped together enough to return home, and live in some snug corner, as happy as the *Corycius Senex*, in Virgil's fourth Georgic, whom I recommend both to you and myself, as a perfect model of the truest happy life. Believe me to be ever most sincerely and affectionately,

Yours, &c. JAMES THOMSON.

ANECDOTE.

THE leader of a gang of banditti in Corsica, who had long been famous for his exploits, was at length

* Good Thomson here speaks the language of the times. Honest man! He did not dive deep into the system of political depravity, and was gulled by plausible words, as many an honest man before and since has been.

Edit.

taken and committed to the care of a soldier, from whom he contrived to escape. The soldier was condemned to death. At the place of execution, a man, coming up to the commanding officer, said, "Sir, I am a stranger to you, but you shall soon know who I am. I have heard that one of your soldiers is to die for having suffered a prisoner to escape. He was not at all to blame; besides the prisoner shall be restored to you. Behold him here: I am the man. I cannot bear that an innocent man should be punished for me: And have come to die myself."—"No," cried the French officer, who felt the sublimity of the action as he ought, "thou shalt not die; and the soldier shall be set at liberty. Endeavour to reap the fruits of thy generosity. Thou deservest to be henceforth an honest man."

ON THE ANCIENT BUILDINGS IN SCOTLAND

CALLED DHUNES.

Continued from p. 204 and concluded.

ALL the dry stone circular buildings I have yet seen in any part of Scotland of a *considerable height*, were accompanied with stairs and galleries; but I have also seen others, in some sort resembling these, though none of them were of great height, nor ever seem to have been so, in which, by the most diligent search I could make, no traces of stairs, or internal openings, could be perceived, and which, from their situation and accompaniments, seem rather to have been intended as places of strength, and covers for refuge in times of danger, than for the purposes of worship. Of this sort I can now point out three or

four: One on the top of a hill in the island of Islay, near the sound, called the hill of Lofsit, if my memory serves me well; another stands on the top of a hill in the north east side of the island of Tiree, the name of which I have forgot; and there are two others near together, in the vicinity of Portree, in the isle of Skye. These two last are remarkable, among other particulars, for having an area adjoining to them, surrounded with a kind of wall or rampart, the tower standing in one corner, that seems to have been the most inaccessible, resembling very much in the plan, a town with its citadel. From these observations, I am inclined to think that there have been two classes of circular buildings in Scotland; one of them for temporary defence, of which the four just mentioned may be accounted examples; and the other solely for religious ceremonies, of which the following are well known, and to which all the observations in this paper are strictly applicable: One at Dornadilla in the parish of Rae in Lord Rae's country; one at Dunrobin in Sutherland; one at Dunagglesgag in Ross-shire; and its fellow on the opposite side of the frith of Dornoch; and three in the valley of Glenelg, in Inverness-shire, which have been described by Pennant, and which I myself examined with particular attention. I should think it probable that this last class of circular buildings may be the most ancient of the two; and that the natives, in future times, having observed how long the walls thus built stood firm, have adopted the idea of rearing places of defence on the same general plan. But this I only offer as a conjecture.

All the structures of this sort, and some particular places, are distinguished by the epithet DUN; and as it has been said that this monosyllable, in the Gaelic language, signifies a rock, a fortress, or place of strength, many people have adopted the idea that this circumstance, decisively, points out the uses for which they have been originally and solely appropriated. Arguments founded on etymology alone, are, however, in my opinion, in general, of a nature too equivocal to be relied on implicitly. Not to enter, however, on this wide field at present, I shall here only beg leave to observe, that little reliance can be had on the argument founded on the name in the present instance. The learned and ingenious colonel Vallancey observes, that the above is not, perhaps, the strict or the original meaning of that word. "In the Irish language," says he, "DUNN is a judge. But it is well known, in ancient times, that the priests and judges were the same." In conformity with this idea, he observes, in another place, that the word is derived from the Hebrew דן DUN. "*Quæ vox,*" says the learned Hutchison, "*per totam scripturam significat officium in ecclesia, seu predicationem qua arguimur, reprehendimur, discernimus bona a malis.*" Hence, adds Vallancey, the Irish *dunn*, i. e. *Ollamdan* a doctor, a druid in his oracular office. It was therefore most natural to give this name to those buildings, where the priest in his oracular character, or *dunn*, performed the mysterious rites which peculiarly belonged to his sacred office.

I mean to ground nothing more on this etymological argument, than merely to inculcate the propriety of being cautious about building any hypothesis on

such slender foundations, especially with regard to languages, whose original roots, and their *precise* meanings, are not sufficiently understood. J. A.

ESSAY CONCERNING ENTAILS.

SIR,

To the Editor of the Bee.

IF the right of primogeniture has in all ages and countries, where civilization prevailed, been found injurious to society, by withholding stock for fresh industry from the rising generation of men, and due support from the unfortunate and weaker sex, it is evident that the *fidei commissi*, or entail of estates, and property to one male only, in succession, must be productive of much more pernicious consequences. Perhaps nothing in the whole tablatore of human existence has so much tended to the corruption of manners, the downfall of nations, and their utter conquest and extinction, than this very favourite right of primogeniture, above all when fortified by the authority of the state, against the ordinary and wise ordinations of providence in the unfettered course of human events. By means of this preposterous right, suited only to the Jewish expectations of a Mefsiah, which for near two thousand years have become ridiculous in the extreme of absurdity, in such a kingdom as Britain, an army of thirty or forty thousand idle men is kept to stop, like drones, the entrances of the political hive, and to abstract the food which has been collected by the industrious community.

If this injury to the state included all the evils that arose from the institution, it might be borne, as the

utmost extent of it might be estimated and perceived. But that army of men, nurtured in exclusive privileges, and corrupted by wealth and idleness, must be, from their nature and occupation, productive of all the evils that arise from intemperance, frivolous pursuits, and the desire of vain show, unconnected with the production of national stock, while they are continually deteriorating the morals of the people, by keeping up, as one may say, tabernacles for luxury and corruption.

It is not the high flown eloquence of a pensioned orator that can persuade an enlightened age and people that the corruption of manners is to be balanced by the splendid fabric of a hierarchy and aristocracy; or that the scratch of a beautiful queen's finger is to be commuted only by the sufferings of a whole nation. *The reign of delusion is at an end.*

“What constitutes a state?”

Not high rais'd battlement, or labour'd mound,
Thick wall or moated gate;

Not cities proud with spires and turrets crown'd;
Not bays and broad arm'd ports,

Where laughing at the storm, rich navies ride;
Not starr'd and spangl'd courts,

Where low-bred baseness wafts perfume to pride;

No,—men—high minded men,

With pow'rs as far above dull brutes endow'd
In forest, brake, or den,

As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles rude;

Men—who their duties know,

But know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain;

Prevent the long arm'd blow,

And crush the tyrant while they read the chain;

There constitute a state.

It is indecent, and almost ridiculous, to talk of the loss that would be sustained by the public, by families that had once distinguished themselves from the

common crowd, returning back again to their first origin in consequence of the extravagance of heirs. This is just as it ought to be, and according to the venerable institutions of heaven, that imprudence and vice should meet with their due rewards, and that a voice should be heard continually sounding through the universe, "To be good is to be happy;" and that it should declare to the elohims of the earth, who meet with deserved punishment, "*discite justitiam moriti, & non temnere divos.*"

It must rejoice every friend to humanity, to see a prospect of the abominable feudal system getting its death's wound in Britain, and among its worst progeny that which annihilates the people in the scale of Scottish representation, and multiplies, all over the nation, the occasions of expensive, and destructive litigation.

The elegant Horace Walpole, when he had finished his little castle at Strawberry-hill, and adorned it with the portraits, and armorial bearings of his ancestors, and illustrious persons, was asked if he did not design to entail it on his family; on the subject of this query he wrote the following verses, with which I shall conclude this short article.

THE ENTAIL A FABLE*.

In a fair summer's radiant morn,
A butterfly divinely born,
Whose lineage, dated from the mud

* This piece was inserted in Dodsley's Annual Register, vol. xv. a dear book, and therefore but in few hands.

Of Noah's or Deucalion's flood,
 Long hov'ring round a perfum'd lawn,
 By various gusts of odours drawn,
 At last establish'd his repose
 On the rich bosom of a rose.
 The palace pleas'd the lordly guest;
 What insect own'd a prouder nest?
 The dewy leaves luxuriant shed
 Their balmy odours o'er his head,
 And with their silken tapestry fold
 His limbs, enthron'd on central gold,
 He thinks the thorns, embattl'd round,
 To guard his castle's lovely mound,
 And all the bush's wide domain
 Subservient to his fancied reign.
 Such ample blessings swell'd the fly!
 Yet in his mind's capacious eye,
 He roll'd the change of mortal things,
 The common fate of flies and kings;
 With grief he saw how lands and honours,
 Are apt to slide to various owners;
 Where Mowbray's dwelt, how grocers dwell,
 And how cits buy what barons sell:
 "Great Phœbus! patriarch of my line,
 "Avert such shame from sons of thine!
 "To them confirm these roofs," he said;
 And then he swore an oath so dread,
 The stoutest wasp that wears a sword,
 Had trembled to have heard the word!
 "If law can rivet down entails,
 "These manors ne'er shall pass to snails,
 "I swear,"—and then he smote his ermine,—
 "These tow'rs were never built for vermin."

A caterpillar grovell'd near,
 A subtle slow conveyancer,
 Who, summon'd, waddles with his quill,
 To draw the haughty insect's will;
 None but his heirs must own the spot,
 Begotten or to be begot,
 Each leaf he binds, each bud he ties
 To eggs of eggs of butterflies.
 When lo! how fortune loves to tease,
 Those who would dictate her decrees;
 A wanton boy was passing by,
 The wanton child beheld the fly,
 And eager ran to sieze the prey;
 But too impetuous in his play,
 Crush'd the proud tenant of an hour,
 And swept away the mansion flow'r.

ON THE SILK-WORM.

FROM the queries of several correspondents I find that the nature of the silk-worm is not generally understood. A succinct account of that wonderful creature will, I doubt not, prove acceptable to them.

The silk-worm is a species of caterpillar, which, like all others of the same class, undergoes a variety of changes, that, to persons who are not acquainted with objects of this kind, will appear to be not a little surprising.

It is produced from a yellowish coloured egg, about the size of a small pin head, which has been laid by a kind of greyish coloured moth, which the vulgar confound with the butterfly.

These eggs, in the temperature of this climate, if kept beyond the reach of the fire and sun-shine, may be preserved during the whole of the winter and spring months without danger of hatching; and even in summer they may easily be prevented from hatching if they be kept in a cool place; but in warmer climates it is scarcely possible to preserve them from hatching, even for a few days, or from drying so much as to destroy them.

Hence it is easy for a native of Britain to keep the eggs till the food on which the worm is to feed be ready for that purpose. When this food is in perfection the eggs need only be exposed to the sun for a day or two, when they will be hatched with great facility.

When the animal is first protruded from the egg, it is a small black worm, which is active, and naturally ascends to the top of the heap in search of food. At this stage of his growth the silk-worm requires to be fed with the youngest and most tender leaves; on these leaves, if good, he will feed very freely for about eight days, during which

period he increases in size to about a quarter of an inch in length. He is then attacked with his first sickness, which consists in a kind of lethargic sleep, for about three days continuance, during which time he refuses to eat, and changes his skin, preserving the same bulk.

This sleep being over, he begins to eat again, during five days, at which term he is grown to the size of full half an inch in length, after which follows a *second* sickness, in every respect like the former.

He then feeds for other five days, during which time he will have increased to about three quarters of an inch in length, when he is attacked with his *third* sickness.

This being over, he begins to eat again, and continues to do so for five days more, when he is attacked by his *fourth* sickness; at which time he is arrived at his full growth.

When he recovers this sickness he feeds once more, during five days, with a most voracious appetite; after which he disdains his food, becomes transparent, a little on the yellowish cast, and leaves his silky traces on the leaves where he passes. These signs denote that he is ready to begin his cocoon and will eat no more.

Thus it appears that the whole duration of the life of the worm in this state of its existence, in our climate, is usually about forty-six days; twenty-eight of which days he takes food, and remains in his sick, or torpid state, eighteen; but it is to be observed, that during warm weather the periods of sickness are shortened, and in cold weather lengthened above the terms here specified. In very hot climates it may be said to live faster, and sooner to attain maturity than in those that are colder. From the correspondence of Dr Anderson at Madras, I learn that in their climate the worm undergoes its whole evolutions in the space of twenty-two days. It appears, however, that it feeds fully as many days in India as in Europe, the difference being

entirely occasioned by shortening the period of sickness. The longest sickness he had seen them there experience did not exceed two days; and during summer it only lasts a few hours.

When the worm has attained its full perfection, it searches about for a convenient place for forming its cocoon, and mounts upon any branches or twigs that are put in its way for that purpose; after about two days spent in this manner, it settles in its place, and forms the cocoon, by winding the silk which it draws from its bowels round itself, into an oblong roundish ball.

During this operation it gradually loses the appearance of a worm; its length is much contracted, and its thickness augmented. By the time the web is finished, it is found to be transformed into an oblong roundish ball, covered with a smooth shelly skin, and appears to be perfectly dead. In this state of existence it is called an *aurelia*. Many animals in this state, all my country readers must have seen, sticking on the walls of out-houses, somewhat resembling a small bean.

In this state it remains for several days, entirely motionless, in the heart of the cocoon, after which it bursts, like an egg hatching, and from that comes forth a heavy, dull looking moth with wings; but these wings it never uses for flying, it only crawls slowly about in the place it has been hatched. This creature forces its way through the silk covering the worm had woven, goes immediately in quest of its mate, after which the female lays her eggs, and both male and female, without tasting food in this stage of their existence, die in a very short time.

Such are the surprising changes of the silk-worm. I do not at present mean to enter into any details on its management, but merely to make my readers acquainted with the great outlines of its natural history. A more minute description of the worm itself, when at its full size, will perhaps prove acceptable.

"The silk-worm, when at its full size, is from an inch and a quarter to an inch and a half in length, and about half an inch in circumference. He is either of a milk or pearl colour, or blackish; these last are esteemed the best. His body is divided into seven rings, to each of which are joined two very short feet. He has a small point like a thorn, exactly above the anus. The substance which forms the silk is in his stomach, which is very long, wound up as it were upon two spindles, and surrounded with a gum, commonly yellowish, sometimes white, not often greenish. When the worm spins his cocoon, he winds off a thread from each of his spindles, and joins them afterwards by means of two hooks which are placed in his mouth, so that the cocoon is formed of a double thread. Having opened a silk-worm, you may take out the spindles, which are folded up in three plaits, and, on stretching them out, and drawing each extremity, you may extend them to near two ells in length. If you then scrape the thread so stretched out with your nail, you scrape off the gum, which is very like bees wax, and performs the same office to the silk it covers, as gold leaf does to the ingot of silver it surrounds, when drawn out by the wire drawer. This thread, which is extremely strong and even, is about the thickness of a middling pin*."

Of silk-worms, as of most other animals, there is a considerable variety of breeds, some of which are much more hardy, and possess qualities considerably different from others. This is a particular of much importance to be adverted to at the time of beginning to breed these creatures in any place; for it will make a great difference in the profit on the whole to the undertaker if he rears a

* This description marked within inverted commas is transcribed from an Italian work; the Editor supposes it just, but does not vouch for its authenticity. What is said respecting the spindles in the bowels has much the air of being hypothetical.

good or a bad sort *. This is a department in respect to the œconomy of animals that has been in every case much less adverted to than it deserves; and in particular with regard to the silk-worm it has been almost entirely overlooked. A few eggs of the silk-worm can be easily transported by post in a letter from any part of Europe to another, especially during the winter season. It would, therefore, be an easy matter for any patriotic society, such as the Society of Arts in London, to obtain a specimen of the eggs from every country in which silk is now reared, to put these under the care of a person who could be depended upon, and who understood the management of them, with orders to keep each kind distinct from another, and advert to every particular that occurred in their management, so as to make a fair estimate of their respective merits. By this means the best might be selected, and those of inferior value rejected. Forty or fifty of each sort might be enough for the experiment; but it ought to be repeated several times before conclusions could be drawn from it that might be altogether relied upon; for it is well known that a variation of circumstances will make a change in the result; and it is by no means certain that the same particular would affect those of one breed exactly in the same manner as it would do those of a different breed. One may be more hardy with regard to cold, another more delicate in respect to food, and so on. It is experience, alone, that can ascertain the circumstances here inquired for.

The colour of the cocoons is considerably diversified. The silk produced by some is white, others yellow or

* "I have three different kinds of silk-worms," writes Mr John Giff to Dr Anderson of Madras, dated Po, lipore 9th of June 1791, "each of which produces a different size of cocoons; the largest about thirteen thousand to a ser, the smallest nearly twenty-five thousand." This difference is nearly as two to one. He says nothing of their other qualities.

gold coloured, others orange ; but it is not certain but a change of food may produce some effect in this respect. It is, however, very certain, that if different breeds be fed upon the same food, and kept in the same temperature, there will nevertheless be a great diversity in the colour of the silk. This colour does not arise from the silk itself, but merely from the gum with which it is covered, for all silk is white when the gum is washed from it.

From the above mentioned particulars it will appear, that the management of silk-worms must be very different in hot climates from what is required in those that are colder. At Madras, I learn from Dr Anderson's experiments that it is very difficult to prevent the eggs from hatching for a very few days, so that many generations of them must be propagated in one year. " In this hottest season," says he, in a letter to Sir Joseph Banks, dated July 6. 1791, " the shortest time I have been able to remark for the whole evolutions of the silk-worm is *forty* days ; that is to say, *six* days an egg. *twenty-two* a worm, *eleven* a grub in the cocoon, and *one* a moth or butterfly." Fortunately, where the climate forces forward their production so rapidly, nature hath been equally provident of food for their subsistence ; for in these regions the mulberry continues to grow and push out leaves throughout the whole year.

In cooler regions, where vegetation is stopped for a season, it is also an easy matter to retard the progress of animal life. In some parts of Italy, when the season is favourable, and the mulberry trees recover their leaves, after being once bared, they rear a second breed towards the end of summer ; but in general they are contented with gathering *one* full crop in a season. When they wish for no more, they lay up the eggs in a cool dry place, close wrapped up, where they may be preserved as

long as is necessary ; so that during the winter they occasion no sort of trouble. If there be but abundance of eggs provided, it is in the power of any person in our climate to bring them forward, at whatever time they shall incline, and in the quantities that may suit their convenience.

Convenience must be studied, and a great part of the profit depends on the oeconomising so well, as to give as equal employment as possible to all the persons concerned, and not to cause them be too much hurried at one time more than another. During the time the worms continue to eat, the gathering leaves is a considerable labour ; and if the works are extensive, it will facilitate the business to have two breeds coming forward at one time ; one of which may be eating, in general, while the other is in its sickly state ; or one breed may follow another.

If the animal be allowed to undergo its natural changes unchecked, much of the silk would be lost ; for in making its passage through the cocoon, the moth so much deranges the threads of silk, as to render it very difficult to be unwinded ; and as it is not possible to overtake the winding of the silk at this hurried season, it becomes necessary to kill the aurelia in the cocoon, so as to prevent its producing this evil,—a proper number being always reserved for producing eggs. This is best done by exposing the cocoons, for a proper time, to the heat of an oven duly regulated, which not only destroys the life of the animal, but dries up its moisture so as to enable it to be kept without putrefaction for a reasonable time. The cocoons thus dried can be kept till the autumn and winter, when they can be winded off at leisure by those hands that were busily employed during the summer in providing food and attending the worms.

A considerable degree of ingenuity has been exercised for discovering the best mode of unwinding the cocoons, and a very ingenious contrivance has been devised for

that purpose, which shall be described in due time; and in properly performing this operation a great part of the profit of the undertaking will depend. In all cases several threads, as it is left by the silk-worm, are put together; but the fewer of these that go to form one thread, the more valuable is the silk; so that from the same cocoons an attentive matron may produce silk worth three guineas the pound weight, while a hasty slattern could obtain for that which she wound not more than twelve or fifteen shillings. It is in offering such a premium for ingenuity and adroitness that I chiefly hope to derive emolument to my fair countrywomen, who are, I think, inferior to none, in these respects, wherever they find it can prove beneficial to them or their families.

PREMIUMS AWARDED.

THE judges to whose revision the competition pieces were submitted, have given the following decision:

“Among the pieces submitted to our revision most of them possess merit; but few, or perhaps none, come up to the idea we entertain of that excellence which might be expected. Upon a fair investigation we think, however, that, notwithstanding several improprieties, the piece signed *Philo*, *Naturam expellas furca, &c.* deserves the first place. The merit consists more in the manner in which it is written than the matter it contains.

“The piece signed *Maschazabel* comes in the next place, and possesses, in a certain sense, perhaps even a higher degree of merit than the former. But the writer, who appears to have had as yet but little practice in the art of writing, has not been able to bring forward his thoughts in that neat and forcible manner that would have shown them to the greatest advantage.

“In the allegory,—*O Dea certe, &c.* the imagery is well supported throughout; but the language is a kind of poetic prose, which in our opinion ought never to be encouraged.

“The poetical fragment by the same author,—*Dea sacra potentibus herbis*, possesses considerable merit.

“The same may be said of the fable,—*Quodvisque videt, &c.* It possesses a degree of vivacity which is very pleasing, and we should be sorry to see it committed to the flames as the writer desires it may be.

“The verses on money —*O Cuius &c.* though less lively, are at least equally just with the former, your readers would be pleased to see them in your Bee.

“The same may be said of the verses by *Theobaldus* and *Graham Conzie*, and the fragment on *Cortex*. The other pieces it is unnecessary to mention particularly.”

Philo will obtain the premium when he shall please to call for it. The other pieces mentioned above will be printed, if not forbid in the course of five or six weeks.

SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

March 21. 1792.

FOREIGN.

Death of the emperor of Germany.

THE death of the emperor of Germany, which happened on the first of March, after a few hours illness only, is the most important incident that has occurred since our last. The shortness of his illness has given room for various conjectures. It is generally believed at present that he has been poisoned; but we have as yet had too few particulars to be able to speak with any degree of certainty on that head. It seems to be admitted, that his disorder was a bowel complaint. It was confidently asserted at first, that his body had swelled so much as actually to burst. It has been since surmised, that his disorder proceeded from too free a use of stimulating drugs that he had taken; but this seems to be mere surmise, nor do any of the symptoms mentioned appear to countenance this assertion.

On the supposition that poison has been administered, conjectures, as usual, have been

made to discover the persons who have probably been the procurers of it; and here, the critical situation of France, with respect to the emigrant princes, has induced many to suppose, that it must have originated from that quarter. There seems, however, to be little probability that this conjecture is well founded; at least, should it afterwards prove to be so, it must evidently be of more disservice to the cause of the revolutionists of France than any other event could have been. For should it be proved, or should even a very strong suspicion of it remain, that they had had any hand in this event, it would serve to unite all the powers of Europe much more firmly against them, than any other circumstance ever could have done.

However this event may be explained, and whatever the result *in the end* may be, it will be apparently in the first instance, beneficial to the new constitution of France, and hurtful to that of the emigrant

princes. If Leopold had any intentions of interfering in their quarrel, it must, on the part of the empire, be suspended at least for a season. But as there seemed to be no just grounds to suspect that he intended to engage, hastily, at least, in this quarrel; and as his successor in the empire, who will probably be his son, the archduke of Austria, may not be so much disposed to pacific measures as his father, there appears to be rather a greater chance now of a rupture between France and Austria than formerly.

Poland, Russia, Sweden.

The emperor's death may be as critical with respect to Poland as to France. The empress of Russia was too much engaged in her war with the Turks, to be able to take that lead in the Polish councils, she had done for some time before. The revolution in the constitution of Poland she has never approved of. It was promoted by Prussia and the emperor. It is suspected that she has privately countenanced the disaffected noble Poles and the other malcontents in their opposition to the new constitution, and it is not impossible but she has privately influenced the elector of Saxony to adopt that caution in regard to this resolution, which has so strongly marked his conduct hitherto. At the very moment the news

of the death of Leopold reached Britain, government has been officially informed that the empress of Russia is to have a fleet in the Baltic this summer, to act in conjunction with that of Sweden; and private report says, that the empress has paid, *per* advance, four years of the subsidy due to the king of Sweden, in order to enable him to equip his fleet with the greater expedition. It is not easy to say what can be the object of this sudden armament.

France.

An armament, equally sudden, we are told, is ordered to be made in France. Their navy is to be put on the same footing as when they armed two years ago in opposition to the armament that was then carrying on in Britain. But from the extreme derangement of the finances of that country, the little subordination that subsists in the navy, and the consequent disgust that all experienced officers belonging to it have expressed to that service, it will probably be a difficult matter for that nation at present to fit out a fleet that could act with effect against any naval power.

Spain.

The internal tranquillity of Spain is by no means fully established; and though great precautions are taken to guard against any news being either carried out of this country, or

brought into it, there are sufficient evidence that all is not there as it ought to be. No farther accounts of the popular commotions mentioned in our last chronicle, have transpired; but it is certain that the count de Florida Blanca, who has so long acted as first minister of that kingdom, has resigned, and it is said that count d'Aranda is advanced to that dignity in his stead. It is long since Spain has had a minister who bestowed such unwearied attention to promote the welfare of the people, and the improvement of that country, as the count de Florida Blanca. He has exerted himself to make roads and canals, to promote manufactures and agriculture, to encourage the study of science, and above all to enlarge the human understanding with respect to the influence of religious prejudices, and to curtail the judicial power of the clergy in the court of Inquisition. In all these particulars he has conducted himself with great judgment and moderation, considering the circumstances in which he was obliged to act; but whether with as much caution as to screen himself from now feeling the weight of the machinations of his enemies, time only can discover. During the reign of the late king of Spain, who, with all his foibles was a very good man, the operations of the count de Florida Blanca, met with his

fullest approbation and support; but circumstances seem to have indicated, that during the present reign, there has not subsisted the same cordiality between the prince and the minister as formerly. Many of the transactions of the present reign discover a wayward precipitancy of conduct that was not remarked in the former. And the dismissal of this minister from office, we fear, indicates nothing favourable to the tranquillity of Europe.

Miscellaneous.

The king of Sweden in his address to the diet, thus discovered his hatred at the new constitution of France, which has deprived him of his subsidy: "It is reserved" said his majesty, "for your courage and energy to give such an example to the world, in the moment when a great state, hitherto so powerful, our most ancient ally, presents such a dreadful instance of all the evils which licentiousness brings, to the disgrace and destruction of empires."

The queen of Portugal at present labours under a mental derangement. Dr Willis has been offered L. 20,000, exclusive of the payment of all his expences to go to Lisbon.

In the late insurrection at Metz, the Jews were severely handled; the pretext was the astonishing high price of cash. La Fayette ordered the troops to attend when all the mischief was done.

March 3. Intelligence was received from Jamaica, that on the 17th of December last, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt at Kingston and other places. On the 31st of the same month, another very smart shock was felt.

The Pope has published a bull for the suppression of twenty festival days in Spain.

The debts of the United States of America, to the amount of between fifteen and sixteen millions sterling, have, by an act of congress, been funded in the three following stocks, viz.

Three *per cent.* whereof the interest is now paid every quarter.

Six *per cent.* whereof the interest is likewise now paid every quarter.

Deferred stock, which, after the year 1800, will bear an interest of six *per cent.* payable every quarter.

The interest on the three *per cent.* and six *per cent.* stocks is paid with the utmost punctuality on the days on which it becomes due, viz. 1st of April, 1st of July, 1st of October, and 1st of January.

The three *per cent.* stock can only be redeemed at *par*, when congress shall make provision by law for it.

The six *per cent.* stock is subject to redemption, by payments not exceeding in one year the proportion of 8 *per*

cent. on account both of the principal and the interest of six *per cent.*

The deferred stock is subject to redemption, only in the same proportion as the six *per cent.* stock.

But it is expressly stipulated that the United States are not bound or obliged to redeem in the above proportion; but only that they have a right so to do.

The stock is in dollars, which are reduced to money, at the par of exchange of America, viz. 4 s. 6 d. *per* dollar.

Three *per cent.* L. 75.

Six *per cent.* L. 120.

Deferred stock, L. 75.

The produce of the taxes laid to provide for the payment of the interest on the American funds, has far exceeded the estimate made of them, yielding a surplus of above one million two hundred thousand dollars, which, by an act of congress, is laid out in the same manner as in this country, in reducing the public debt.

The deficit in the French finances for the current year, on a supposition that taxes will not be better paid than they have been the two preceding years, is calculated at twenty-five millions sterling; a sum exceeding, by one-third, the whole revenue of Great Britain; and fully equal to what the whole revenue of France in

its most improved state ever amounted to.

The losses by the insurrections at St Domingo, are estimated at more than twenty-five millions sterling.

The frost at Rouen has been as severe as it was lately in England; and the blossom of the pears, peaches, and apricots, is entirely cut off.

On Feb. 15. The queen of Portugal continued without any abatement of her disorder, and daily prayers were offering up for her recovery.

A general terror prevails at Constantinople. A man having whilst the Grand Signior was at prayers, thrown a ball of lead at him, it was conjectured that a conspiracy was on foot; in consequence of which his Highness issued orders to banish all those who were not sufficiently known to the officers of police, and hundreds of persons are daily transported to Asia in the most violent manner.

DOMESTIC.

NOTHING has occurred during the present session of parliament that is of much importance. Every question has been carried with great ease, in the way that administration wished it should go. Rumour, however, says that the ruling powers of this country, are at last convinced of what they

ought to have known long ago, that the war in India is destructive to the interest of this country, and if persisted in might prove fatal. Orders it is said have been forwarded to lord Cornwallis to put an end to it immediately, without regard to his allies, if they refuse to listen to reasonable proposals. Some people may condemn this as improper conduct; but impartial persons will say, that he who does not persist in an error when he once sees he is wrong, is nearest to him who never committed an error at all. And where is the man that can lay claim to this character?

In the country at large, nothing seems to engross the attention of the people, so much as the abolition of the slave trade. There is scarcely a community or a description of men who have not met together, and either published resolves inimical to the slave trade, or petitioned parliament for its abolition. Whether legislature will pay attention to these petitions, or disregard them, as coming from people, many of whom are undoubtedly incapable of judging, as to the *political expediency* of the measure they condemn, a little time will now discover, as the cause comes on in the House of Commons on the 29th instant.

Admirers of the fine arts, have sustained a great loss since our last, by the death of Sir

Joshua Reynolds, who we suppose will be allowed to be the first portrait painter that ever Britain produced. Under the auspices of this single man, aided by the countenance of his majesty, and the liberal patronage of the public, has been effected a revolution in the fine arts that Europe did not seem to expect. The Abbé Du Bos, and many other critics have admitted with reluctance, that Britain has produced some poets who were intitled to the name, but never a painter; and they have with great ingenuity accounted for this circumstance, proving clearly that our atmosphere was too gross for giving play to those fine traits of genius that were necessary to constitute a painter. Sir Joshua Reynolds, for many years past, has been admitted to be the finest portrait painter in Europe; and though accidental circumstances diverted his attention from historical painting, yet the few things he has done in that line, show that it was not for want of talents; and his discourses to the students of the academy, that have been published from time to time, have perhaps done more to assist students in that art than all the writings on painting that have been published put together; nor have these discourses been thrown away, for Britain contains at present a greater number of elves, who promise to

excel in this art than any other country in Europe.

It happens also to be a pretty singular fact, that the two first painters in the world at present are natives of North Britain, Gavin Hamilton in history, and Jacob More in landscape painting.

The following are the leading features of the treaty signed at Berlin on the 26th of January, on the part of the king of Great Britain, and the king of Prussia concerning the late marriage between the duke of York and the princess of Prussia.

The king of Prussia gives to the princess a portion of 100,000 crowns, 40,000 as being the usual portion of the princesses of Prussia and 60,000 as paraphernalia. Should the princess die before her husband, without issue, both sums are to revert to the king of Prussia.

The princess of Prussia renounces all right of inheritance to the crown of Prussia, in favour of the male succession. The king of Great Britain and the duke of York confirm this renunciation.

The duke of York gives to the princess, as a gift on the day after her marriage, the sum of 6000 l. the interest of which is to make part of the sum fixed for pin-money.

The duke of York, besides the above sum, promises to allow 4000 l. sterling, annually, as pin-money, and the king of

Great Britain takes upon himself the execution of this engagement.

The king of Great Britain grants, as a counter-portion to that given by the king of Prussia, the like sum of 100,000 crowns, and engages to secure to the duchess, in case of the duke's death, the annual sum L. 8000, together with a residence and suitable establishment

On Sunday Feb. 19th, Duc de Biron set off for France, having been released from his confinement on the Friday before. Lord Rawden and a French gentleman were his bail, to the amount of L. 4000. He was in great haste to get away, as he heard other promissory notes were coming from Paris as detainers against him.

On Sunday, Feb. 12: the inhabitants of Portland were alarmed by the shaking of the earth; in the course of the night the piers and a great quantity of the rock gave way, including a space of more than half a mile square.

London, Feb. 25. the queen has appointed the earl of Morton to be chamberlain of her majesty's household, and has also appointed the earl of Ailesbury to be treasurer of her majesty's household.

On Thursday evening, Feb. 23. died, much lamented by his numerous friends, in the 69th year of his age, Sir Joshua Reynolds, the president of the

royal academy. His genius was not confined merely to his own peculiar art, for his talents were truly various. He has left Miss Palmer (his niece) residuary legatee. Mr Boswell, two hundred pounds, to seventeen noblemen a picture each, and Mr Burke, L. 2000.

On Saturday last, at two o'clock, died, his house in Albemarle-street, Robert Adam, Esq. Architect, Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies of London and Edinburgh. His death was occasioned by the bursting of a blood vessel.

Feb. 27, the House of Commons at Dublin was discovered to be on fire about half past four o'clock, and in less than an hour the whole dome was surrounded by a volume of fire. About half past six the dome fell in, and communicated the flames to every thing near. By timely exertions the fire was entirely extinguished about one o'clock.

Saturday, March 4. Dr Wilis set out for Lisbon to attend the queen.

On the 19th ult. died at Auchinleck, Ayrshire, Matthew Tait, aged one hundred and twenty-three years. He served as a private soldier at the taking of Gibraltar by the British in the year 1704.

Lord Macartney, it is now known, will set out shortly upon an embassy to China. One material purpose of his mission,

is to be that of inducing the emperor to direct the payment of debts, owing by the merchants of China to those of our settlements in India, to the amount of more than one million sterling.

A monument, it is said, will be erected to the late Mr Adam the architect, in St Paul's Cathedral.

St Andrew's, March 12. There was discovered, the beginning of February last, in a garden on the east side of the Castle Wynd, St Andrew's, about three feet below the surface, an earthen pot, containing a number of English, Scotch, and French coins. By tracing the names of the princes, and examining the form of the different impressions, they appear to be about the size of half a crown, but thin and light. There are above 200 of silver, mostly about the size of a shilling, many of them covered with rust, and very much defaced. The silver ones have on one side a St George's Cross, in the angles of which is written, on an inner circle, upon some *Villa Calisie*, upon others *Civitas London*, on others *Civitas Eboraci*, and on others *Villa Edinburgi*. In the outer circle of the three first kinds are the words, *Posui Deum Adjutorem Meum*. On the outer circle of the Scots kind, *Dominus Protector meus et Liberator meus*. On the reverse of

the first kinds is a human head with a crown, round which is generally the inscription, *Henric. Dei Grat. Rex Anglorum et Francorum*. The reverse of the Scotch coins exhibits also a crowned head circumscribed with the words, in some *Robertus*, in others *Jacobus Dei Grat. Rex Scotorum*.

The spirit of emigration which lately threatened to depopulate the Highlands of Scotland, has now, in some degree, subsided. Nothing has contributed more to this desirable purpose than the society instituted by the patriotic Mr Dale, in Glasgow and the neighbourhood, for the encouragement of the oppressed Highlanders.

The Hon. Lord Rockville died here on Tuesday the 13th March. He was the son of the late Earl of Aberdeen by his third lady, Ann Gordon, daughter of the duke of Gordon. The cause of his Lordship's death was a fall, from the streets being slippery, by which his arm was broke, and a fever was the fatal consequence.

On Saturday night, March 10th at eleven o'clock, died at his house in South Audley-street, London, in his 80th year, the right hon. the earl of Bute, viscount and baron Mountstuart, &c. His lordship bore his illness with great composure and resignation, though his disorder produced at times very excessive pain.

SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

April 11. 1792.

FOREIGN.

Assassination of the king of Sweden.

YESTERDAY evening an express arrived at the secretary of state's office, from Robert Liston, esq. our envoy at the Swedish court which brought the extraordinary intelligence that his majesty the king of Sweden, had fallen a victim to the too successful attempt of a regicide on the 26th ult. The circumstances of this unexpected event were as follow:

His majesty that evening gave a grand masquerade, to which persons of distinction, at the Swedish court, including several foreign diplomatic characters, were invited.

During this entertainment and when the festivity was at its height, a gentleman of considerable rank, an officer in the army, watching a favourable opportunity, fired a large pistol at the king, loaded with slugs, the contents of which lodged in his majesty's

groin, and the bottom part of his belly. The perpetrator of this horrid deed was immediately secured, but though questioned, would assign no reason for his conduct.

The express was sent off a few hours after the event, at which time the king was alive, but it had been pronounced impossible for him to survive any length of time.

The world on these occasions are busy in forming conjectures. As the king of Sweden so openly opposed the revolution in France; some suspect that the patriots in France are at the bottom of this bloody attempt; but as the king had offended his nobles at the beginning of his reign, by depriving them of much power they then enjoyed, and had punished several persons of high rank for misbehaviour during the late war, it is by no means impossible that these discontents may have paved the way to this enterprise; a little time will clear up these doubts.

India.

About a week ago a report was raised in London which gained credit for one day, that Seringpatam had been taken by lord Cornwallis after a bloody conflict, in which many persons had been killed on both sides. It now appears that this was one of those daring fabrications that are daily made in the metropolis for the purposes of the Exchange Alley.

By the Thames frigate, lately arrived from India, we learn that Lord Cornwallis was on full march towards Seringapatam; that he was collecting artillery from all quarters; and that Tippoo was strongly encamped on the road to that capital, so that an engagement may be expected to take place before he reach it.

We also learn that a small fort called Coombatore, which was defended by the brave British officer, Chalmers, was carried by a detachment of Tippoo's troops; and it is added, that the barbarians had infringed the articles of capitulation. We may expect that something decisive has been done in that quarter of the world by the next dispatches.

Capture of a French frigate.

But the most alarming news from India is the following account of the capture of the French frigate, the *Resolue*.

At any other time this would probably have been the occasion of a war between the two nations. Fortunately for the tranquillity of Europe, France is not at present in a condition to go to war with us; and the business may probably be terminated in a few remonstrances; and apologies among nations, the stronger is always in right. The particulars of this account are as follow:

In August commodore Cornwallis, lying in Trincomalee, dispatched his majesty's ships *Thames* and *Vestal* to the Malabar coast, and going shortly after to Madras, sent the *Minerva* also, having received intelligence that some neutral ships, under Imperial and French colours, loaded with ammunition and ordnance stores, from Europe, were to arrive there for the use of the sultan's army.

Orders were given to the separate commanders strictly to examine all ships they might fall in with. He followed himself with the *Crown* and *Phoenix* shortly after. Hitherto no ships that were described to him had been seen.

On the 23d of October, at six in the evening, the commodore being on a cruise to the northward, and the *Phoenix* and *Atalanta* in *Tillichery* roads, two French ships and a brig were discovered in the offing. It being the *Atalanta's*

guard, she got under way to board them, and was followed by the Phoenix; but having little wind, they got into the Mallee roads, a French port, and close to Tillicherry.

Captain Foot of the Atalanta, sent a boat with an officer to them, but they refused to be examined, alleging they were in their own boat. Immediately on the boat's return, hearing of their resistance, he sent an officer of marines, with a party, with orders to force the hatchways, and examine them; which being effected, they were found laden with merchandize only. This irregular proceeding was, however, hushed up by the commodore's arrival, and interposition in captain Foot's behalf with the governor.

Early in November, the Resolute French frigate of 32 guns, arrived in Mallee roads, and sailed on the 19th with two merchantmen, at two A. M. from the same port, which, it is conjectured, was a scheme to discover whether commodore Cornwallis would board the merchantmen under his protection, an unlucky experiment in the event; for at five A. M. on seeing them in the offing he made signals to the Phoenix and Perseverance to board them; they got under way, and chaced to the northward, as far as Mangalore, before they came up with them.

When the Phoenix came within hail, she was asked what she wanted? Sir Richard Strachan answered, That he had orders to board the merchantmen in company with her, and would send an officer on board of him to explain the reason.

The first lieutenant, George Parker, went on board; the French frigate then made a signal, which the merchantmen answered, and made sail; the Phoenix making sail also to intercept them, leaving the cutter with Mr Parker some distance astern, and firing at the ships on the larboard bow and beam, to bring them to. The French frigate being on the starboard quarter of the Phoenix, fired two guns shot to windward, which was thought to be at the boats; the Phoenix next hoisted out her jolly boat and sent the third lieutenant, Mr Butt, to board one of them, the Perseverance at the same time boarding the other.

At this time the Phoenix, in backing astern, to keep one of the merchantmen from making off, had her ensign staff carried away by her jibb boom. The French frigate kept firing on the boats; and upon the Phoenix wearing to keep close to her, she fired a broadside into her and commenced the action.

The engagement lasted 25 minutes, and terminated by a happy manœuvre of Sir Rich-

ard Strachan, who, on observing the *Resolute* crossing her hauses, luffed up, went under her stern, and raked her with considerable damage.

The *Resolute* had 25 men killed, and 40 wounded, several of whom are since dead, and the first captain dangerously wounded.

The *Phoenix* had six men killed and eleven wounded, among whom was lieutenant Finley of the marines, since dead, and Mr Wilmot, midshipman, wounded.

By the commodore's orders the French frigate was conducted into Mallee roads, and left there, her own officers and seamen refusing to do any thing with her, saying the *Resolute* struck, and was a prize to the *Phoenix*, and the commodore might dispose of her as he thought proper. The commodore answered them, that he must refer the determination of the affair to this nation; being of too much importance for him to settle.

Commodore Cornwallis has shifted his broad pendant into the *Phoenix*.

Miscellaneous.

THE war between the Moors and Spaniards is renewed by the former in revenge for the assistance afforded by the court of Madrid, to *Ben Afser* the emperor's rebel brother.

The government of St Petersburg have lately received the

agreeable news of the rediscovery of the gold mine, situate between the seas of Ladoga and Onega.

The Prince Royal of Denmark has published an arret by which the slave trade is to cease, and to be for ever abolished after the year 1803.

The new King Francis I. of Hungary and Bohemia has appointed count Francis Hollredo to be his cabinet minister.

From Constantinople we learn, that the insurrection still continues in Mont, of the Asiatic provinces, and they are equally alarmed with regard to the conduct of Mhir Timur Khan, who has left Bagdat, and is marching towards the Turkish provinces in that part of the world, with an army of eighty thousand men.

A dreadful fire happened at Gottenburgh, on the 2d and 3d of March. It broke out at a sugar baker's and raged with such violence, that every attempt to extinguish it proved ineffectual, until it had consumed one hundred and twenty houses.—The university has escaped, although the buildings immediately surrounding it were destroyed.

The prince of Brazil, as presumptive heir to the crown of Portugal, on the 10th ult. issued a degree, purporting, that as his mother, from her unhappy state, was incapable of managing the affairs of go-

vernment, his royal highness had resolved to place his signature to all the dispatches in the name of her majesty, till her return of health rendered it unnecessary.

The news of an insurrection lately at Hesse Cassel is confirmed. The landgrave wishing a regiment to be sent to Sedgewater, a small town on the Rhine, where he has other troops, ordered it to appear on the parade. Being drawn up, five soldiers came out of the rank, and demanded to speak with their captain. They obtained the permission, and in the name of their comrades demanded to be paid as in time of war. The prince of Hesse Cassel was informed of this immediately, and in answer, ordered the five soldiers to be made run the gauntlet. The regiment hearing this brutal order, declared they would not suffer the execution of it. The noise spreading, all the garrison of Cassel ran to the parade, and the people followed in multitudes, threatening that the prince himself should undergo the punishment, if he if he dared to carry his orders into execution.

The landgrave retired to his castle, and proceeded the following night to Hanau.

On Sunday, March 25, before the national assembly of France, abstracts of a number of petitions were read, a-

mong which was one from madame Grandval, a mother, without being a wife, praying the assembly to pass a law, to enable children not born in wedlock, to inherit the property of their parents. Her petition was warmly applauded, and referred to the committee of legislation.

DOMESTIC.

THE slave business, which hath so strongly attracted the attention of the nation for some time past, is not yet fully determined. Mr Wilberforce, according to notice given, brought that business forward in a committee of the whole House on the 2d inst. when he concluded a long and energetic speech, in which he stated some recent transactions on the coast of Africa, of the most atrocious nature, by moving that the trade in slaves from the coasts of Africa by British subjects ought to be immediately abolished.

Col. Tarleton, and several others, opposed the motion, and others warmly supported it. At length Mr Dundas, after acknowledging that the nation at large spoke a language that could not be understood, and ought not to be resisted, with a view to reconcile all parties, proposed a middle course, by moving, as an amendment, that the word *gradually* be substituted instead of *immediately*. This motion, after some de-

bate, was carried by a considerable majority, and leave given to bring in a bill to that effect. Whether this proposition will tend to reconcile the opposing parties, cannot be said till particulars be more fully explained; but it does not appear probable that things can be so modified as to please both parties; possibly it will please neither. Mr Dundas in his speech hinted at the entire abolition of slavery, a particular that gives no favourable idea of the popularity of the measures proposed. Mr Pitt and Mr Fox, both declared themselves to be decidedly against the amendment.

On the 17th March Mr West was elected president of the royal academy, in the room of the late Sir Joshua Reynolds.

A mill has lately been invented in Yorkshire, by which cordage is manufactured, from the size of whip cord to the largest cable, (which, to make in the common way, will require eighty hands,) and which, by this new machine may be completely managed by one man.

Fifty thousand pounds were subscribed in the space of twenty minutes, at a meeting of the gentlemen and landholders at Harborough in Leicestershire, lately, for the purpose of effecting a navigable canal from that place to Leicester.

A general court of proprietors of the Sierra Leone company, was held at the London tavern on Wednesday last, for the annual election of directors for the year ensuing. The court was numerous and most respectably attended. The directors having read the body of instructions given by them to the superintendant and council at Sierra Leone, and reported in detail what had taken place since last meeting, and particularly their purchase of a large ship for the purpose of remaining on the coast as a receptacle for such of their officers and settlers as might not be provided with proper accommodations during the rainy season, the thanks of the court were unanimously voted to them, for their unremitting exertions in promoting the interests of the company during their past direction; and the same gentlemen were, with the like unanimity, re-elected directors for the ensuing year.

The instructions for the superintendant and council, comprised the code for the internal government of the infant colony, and were spoken of with much praise, as a composition replete with wise and philanthropic regulations as for their elegance of diction.

About L. 200,000 have already been raised towards the capital of this company; and the subscriptions are to be con-

tinued open till the 30th of April and then closed.

The price of sugar is fallen near 20s. *per cwt.* Refined and raw sugars are a drug on the market. One rider of Bristol, who on his circuit usually received orders for one hundred hogsheds, returned last week with orders for seven hogsheds only ! Not only a more economical use of this article in most, but its total disuse in many families, has been the consequence of the late monopoly, and exorbitant price of this *necessary luxury* !

The account of the loss of the boat belonging to the Otter sloop of war, on the recruiting service, off Scarborough, is untrue, and originated from her being missing several days from the sloop. Subsequent advices, received at the Admiralty from the Lieutenant on board the boat, give intelligence, that having been beat about in tempestuous weather for three days, she at length put into Sunderland without the loss of a single hand.—Captain Hope of his majesty's ship, Race-horse, now in Leith roads, before he left Shields received a letter from the officer who commanded the boat, informing him that he had weathered the gale, and arrived safe at Sunderland.

Last week, two gentlemen's servants, returning from hunting somewhat intoxicated, one

of them resolutely attempted to cross the water of Leven, in Fife, at half-flood, but having quitted his horse he was drowned.

March 30. This week two highway robberies have been attempted in this neighbourhood.—On Monday evening, about eight o'clock, as a young man was coming on horseback, from Leetholme to this town, a fellow jumped over a hedge near Hounrig, and ordered him to stop, at the same time aimed a blow at him with a bludgeon, which fortunately missed him, but hitting the horse made the animal run off at full speed. Immediately a pistol was fired, and a whistle with a call given, which the young man supposed had been done by an accomplice; but clapping spurs to his horse, he escaped without seeing more of them. On Wednesday night, a man coming from Langton to this town was attacked about the same time of the night, and near the same place, and a pistol fired at him, but he also escaped by the fleetness of his horse, without any personal injury.

By the Howe packet, arrived April 1st. we have received letters from Lisbon, which give a very particular account of the queen of Portugal's health. We learn of Dr Willis's arrival there, and of the general estimation in which

he is held by all descriptions of persons. The queen is much the same as for some time past; but Dr Willis has pronounced her species of disorder to be such as to give him hopes of a recovery. The whole management of her person is confided to his care, and he has recommended short excursions on the river, by way of exercise. Her majesty goes abroad every day in a gondola (a kind of boat,) which is inclosed, so as to prevent the people from seeing the queen.

The emperor's death was formally notified on Wednesday, 27th March, to his majesty at St James's, by the imperial Envoy,

The court mourning for the late emperor of Germany will go out on Thursday the 12th April.

The empress of Germany, we are given to understand, sick of the world, retires to a monastic cell, *so soon as she has witnessed the coronation of her son!* The old lady possesses some of the spirit of our late countess of Coventry. Who knows but the brilliant sight may reconcile her to the world again?

The death of Sir George Pocock in some of the papers is contradicted. That veteran is in a very bad state of health, from which his very

advanced age gives little hopes of his recovery.

Sir George Pocock was formerly in the list of admirals, but his name has been withdrawn, (for what reason we could never learn) many years. In the war before last, he served a considerable time in the East Indies, and acquired a fortune, with the reputation of an active brave officer. Sir George is the second of the elder brethren of the Trinity House, having been chosen in the year 1766. He has been a knight of the Bath since the year 1761.

On the 24th current, a boy about two years of age, was found floating in one of the canals at Luncarty. He had fallen unperceived, and when found had no signs of life remaining. It was supposed he had been at least half an hour under water. He was immediately put into warm blankets before a fire, his body was rubbed with spirits, particularly his sides, and about the stomach; in fifteen minutes some faint convulsive motion was observed in the face, but no other symptom of life, till half an hour after, when he gave a deep sigh. The rubbing was continued, and burnt feathers applied to the nostrils, and in half an hour he began to breathe, and to the astonishment of every person present, he by degrees revived, and is now well.

SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

May 2. 1792.

FOREIGN.

War between France and Germany.

FOR many months past the French have shown a decided inclination to carry on a war in Germany. The premature death of the emperor, and of the king of Sweden, conjoined with the ferment in the Netherlands, and the debilitated state of Russia, after so long a war, seem to have been judged by them circumstances too favourable to their views to be let pass without avail; they have therefore precipitated measures at the present time as much as possible, and, on the 21st April, the national assembly came to an unanimous resolution to declare war against the king of Hungary. From the same considerations they will no doubt make what haste they can to carry it into effect. How this war may end, in as far as respects national interests, it is impossible to foresee; but it is too plain that the calamities it will bring

upon harmless individuals will be great and irreparable. This war seems indeed to threaten private individuals with distresses that for more than a century past have been but little known in Europe. May God grant that our fears in this respect prove to be ill founded!

While so many others have reason to dread the effects of these commotions, the people of Britain have reason to thank heaven, that, as individuals, they cannot be immediately affected by them; and they have reason to hope that their rulers will be endowed with so much common sense as not to involve them in this quarrel, as a nation. Attempts will no doubt be made to inveigle us to take a concern in this business; for hitherto we have been at all times so forward and have so freely contributed our money in every continental quarrel, that the same conduct will be hoped for at present. But the nation judged so wisely with regard to our

late proposed interference between Russia and the Porte, that it is to be expected a portion of that wisdom will be exerted to save us on the present occasion. The sums that we have madly expended in support of the House of Austria, within the present century, are inconceivably great, and can scarcely be equalled by any thing but the sums we have found necessary to apply in order to humble that same power after we had exalted it too much. The share that Britain takes in continental affairs, under pretext of *preserving the balance of power*, (a combination of magical words that has fascinated one half the nations of Europe for some centuries past) may be compared with the concern Penelope took in her famous web; in raising up one power we only cut out business for ourselves to pull him down again. Let us therefore leave those who are disposed to fight at present at full liberty to take their full swing, while, like a wise people, we attend to our own proper business alone. Should this, however, take place, perhaps it might be deemed a greater revolution in the ideas of our cabinet counsels than the revolution that has taken place in France.

The French, it is very plain, place great reliance on

the disturbances they hope to be able to foment in the Austrian Netherlands; and as Britain guaranteed the treaty that secured them to that House, it will be contended that we shall be under the necessity of taking a concern in this quarrel. It would seem, however, that this argument could not be conclusive. This war, on the part of Austria, seems to have been by no means unavoidable; she was under no obligation to support the emigrant princes; but if she chooses voluntarily to involve herself in difficulties, is it just that we should be obliged to participate in the calamities that her own obstinacy alone has brought upon her? Surely no.

The benefits of peace are to us inestimable. In spite of three successive armaments since the last peace, which have accumulated nearly twice as much fresh national debt as the minister has been able to pay off, our revenue, in consequence of the peace, has a prospect of soon accumulating to such a degree, as to enable us to do much more than we have hitherto done in clearing old scores. But if we still, as formerly, be continually anxious to run our head into fresh quarrels, adieu to all these pleasing prospects! If Britain persists in peace, her industry will accumulate to an astonishing degree, and

her prosperity be proportionally augmented ; but if we must engage in foolish wars, an effectual check must be given to these beneficent enterprises. Let the nation, therefore loudly demand peace. If they do so, and are steady in this demand, the minister *will*—nay he *must* listen to their voice.

Sweden.

Advices were received on the 15th of last month at the secretary of state's office, from Robert Liston, esq. British envoy at the Swedish court, stating that the king of Sweden died on the 29th of March.

The greatest part of the slugs had been extracted, and appearances indicating a recovery were visible for about a week after he was wounded. But part of a rusty nail, and some small pieces of iron, had penetrated where it was dangerous and difficult to follow them.

His majesty was apprised of the certainty of his death several days before it took place ; he bore the tidings of his doom with great fortitude and resignation ; he retained all his mental faculties till the last, and gave orders about the arrangement of government and other important affairs, with great composure.

Thus has fallen in his forty-fifth year, by the hands of an assassin, Gustavus III. of Hol-

stein-Gottorp, king of Sweden, who was to have headed armies against the new constitution of France.

He was a man of great personal accomplishments, and of extraordinary talents, either for the cabinet or the field : He was possessed of much penetration and duplicity ; nor was he less remarkable for an insinuating address.

The young king, who was instantly on his father's death proclaimed Gustavus IV. king of Sweden, is only fourteen years old, but he has discovered great and promising abilities.

As yet no men of high authority are found to have had any share in the plot. They are chiefly young men, all noble indeed, but noblemen of desperate fortune.

The following are the names of some of the conspirators :

Ankerstroem, the actual murderer.

Baron Koldenhorn.

Count Horn.

Count Rebbing.

Aldermen Bjorkmann and Alegrin.

Baron Watstrenna.

And major general Bechline.

Their examinations have commenced before M. Litlan Spar.

The corpse of baron Bielki, one of the conspirators, who had poisoned himself, was

drawn on a sledge through Stockholm and hung on a gal-lows.

March 30th his majesty's will and codicil were opened. By the latter he appoints all those who were of the former regency to act as counsel to his brother, the duke of Südermania, who is sole regent until his son (the present king) marries or comes of age; recommends the duke to get the former done as soon as possible;—but he limits the duke not to make any nobles, on any account, or create any knights of the orders of Sweden, except military, and those only for meritorious actions in case of a war.

The new king has received homage from the inhabitants of this city, and appointed baron Armfelt to be governor.

The physicians on opening the king's body found a square bullet and two nails sticking between the ribs.

Madrid.

Don Francisco Monino, governor of the council of the Indies, and brother to count Florida Blanca, is disgraced. He was ordered on the 21st of March to quit Madrid instantly, and to repair to a small town in La Mancha. He is deprived of all pensions.

March 28. Her Catholic majesty was this day safely delivered of a son,—who has

been baptised by the name of Don Phillip.

Poland.

The diet was opened on the 15th of March, with appearances highly favourable to the new constitution. Several deputies, who had formerly protested against it, erased their protests from the registers; and it was resolved unanimously to celebrate the 3d of May next, the anniversary of the revolution, by a public thanksgiving.

A very salutary regulation has just been adopted there, not to allow their dead in future to be buried within the walls of towns, or in churches, where the smell proceeding from the bodies might be either offensive, or injurious to health, but to have their burial places enclosed at a distance from towns in the open air.

Turin.

Tranquillity had been completely restored there on the 30th March. Twenty-four of the rioters had been condemned to the galleys, and six others were expected to be punished with death.

Morocco.

The emperor of Morocco died on the 14th of last month, in consequence of the wounds received by him in the last battle; and his competitor Sidy - Muley - Aichem, over whom he was then victorious,

was expected to die of a wound in the leg, the amputation of which had been too long delayed. Sidy-Muley-Silama, another brother, who had retired to a sanctuary near Tetuan, was looked to as the future emperor.

DOMESTIC.

On the 9th April John Kimber, of the Recovery slave ship, (whose conduct in the African slave trade was the subject of much animadversion in the house of commons, and pretty general conversation out of it,) was brought before the sitting magistrate at Bow-street, charged with the murder of two negro women on their passage from Africa. After a long examination, he was fully committed to take his trial at the Old Bailey.

The Providence frigate, with the assistant tender, left the Cape of Good Hope the last week in December, to proceed on his voyage to Otaheite. Captain Bligh was then perfectly recovered; but two of his crew, a seaman and marine were left ill at this Cape.

The mutual explanations which have passed between the courts of London and Paris, on the subject of the engagement between the frigates in the East Indies, have settled the subject amicably and honourably.

The wise and provident directors of the Sierra Leona company, have engaged Mr Aszelius, demonstrator of botany at Upsal, to reside at Sierra Leona for two years, for the purpose of collecting new and extraordinary plants; whereby not only the colony, but this country also, may hope to reap very considerable improvements and additions to the present stock of useful and agreeable knowledge.

Orders are sent down from the Admiralty office to Plymouth; to prepare a slip for laying the keel of a new first rate, of a hundred and twelve guns, in the royal dock yard at that place.

The three fine libraries of the late earl of Bute go into different hands. That at Luton Hoo, one of the most magnificent in the kingdom, is the present earl's; those at High Cliff, and at the house in South Audely-street, are left to two younger sons.

The vessel carrying the mail from Copenhagen to Hamburgh, has been sunk by the ice in the Great Belt.

Thirty thousand rix dollars partly belonging to the king; and partly to the merchants; have been lost in her.

The salmon fisheries on the coast of Northumberland and Yorkshire, have been greater this year than ever before known. During the last fort-

night, upwards of *fifty thousand* have been taken.

The last accounts from New South Wales are said to be of a dreadful nature. The whole settlement were put upon short allowance, on account of the extreme scarcity of provisions, and the crops raising at Port Jackson, were of the most unfavourable kind; the most promising not likely to yield three bushels for one sown; and, in many parts, even the seed was not expected to be returned. Norfolk island did not produce corn enough for its own inhabitants. In short, the prospect of the whole settlement was deplorable in the extreme.

In consequence of these accounts, orders are said to have been sent to Portsmouth, that the ships destined for that place should be detained.

A Paris paper dated Sunday, April 8, after stating the particulars of the late affair in the East Indies, asserts that our minister has sent out orders to try Sir Richard Strachan for his conduct; and apologise to the French nation for the outrage offered to their flag.

Governor Brooke, of St Helena, in his dispatches to the Court of Directors, mentions, that a French ship called the *Bengal*, was arrived there in her way to France,

which left the Malabar coast the latter end of January, and brings advice that Chitteldroog was certainly taken from Tippoo, in which vast supplies of grain, and sums of specie had been found. The captain mentions also, that the Mahrattas were very active in our cause, and had furnished our army with plenty of horses to remount the cavalry; that lord Cornwallis was in his way to, if he had not already besieged Seringapatam; that Tippoo was much disheartened; and that very great desertion prevailed thro' all his army.

The clerks in the State Office for foreign affairs, most of whom have been many years in office upon very small salaries, (though chiefly married men with large families) have lately had their salaries increased. For this act of humanity and benevolence, they are greatly beholden to the generous exertions of his grace the duke of Leeds, their late principal.

Extract of a letter from on board the Ariel at Tulicherry, Dec. 23. 1791.

"We are now keeping a sharp look out on this coast, and daily expect the French commodore here, who has an equal force, and probably will resent the insult to their flag, in which case we have every reason to expect an obstinate

engagement. We have every thing ready for action at a moment's notice, and consequently exercise our men every day at the great guns. However we can do them but little mischief, unless we meet a ship of our own rate."

The keels of three new ships, designed for the East India company's service in the Bengal and China trade, have been lately laid down in the river, whose tonnage very much exceeds that of any merchant ships heretofore built in this kingdom.

Among the improvements intended in the Covent Garden new theatre, the one shilling gallery is to be omitted.

The commissioners for reducing the national debt, since the new powers given them by the late act have been put in force, purchase on an average about L. 14,000 stock *per* day, which is just double the quantity they used to buy in before the additional L. 400,000 surplus of the public revenue was appropriated to that purpose.

The sheriffs and the grand juries of Lancashire and Cheshire have taken some decided steps in opposing the impositions of several inn-holders who have raised the price of post-horses to 1s. 3d. *per* mile.

The rise was supposed to be the more extortionate, as it was attempted at a time

when corn was falling in its price.

By the Alfred Indiaman accounts from our infant colony, in New South Wales, have been received. The ground, by uncommon labour, had in some places been fertilized. Several bipeds, and a few quadrupeds, had been discovered in the interior part of the country; but the natives continued so shy, that governor Phillips was afraid to venture far on discoveries. A complaint, which ended in diarrhœa, had, we are sorry to learn, been prevalent throughout the colony, and carried off several persons, chiefly convicts.

The Etonians intend presenting Dr Davies, their late head master, with a superb piece of plate, in testimony of their grateful veneration.

The mackarel fishery on the coast of Cornwall has been abundant. Near thirty boats loaded with mackarel, sailed from Penzance about a fortnight ago, for Southampton, to be from thence conveyed to town. The common price *eightpence per dozen*.

The pope has just issued a thundering bull against the French constitutional clergy. He allows them 120 days, during which if they do not abjure their errors, he threatens to excommunicate them.

April 12. A general court was held at the East India house. rev. Dr Edward Dupré, and le Couteur, rectors; and Mefs. Pipon and de la Taste, constables."

The chair was taken by Mr Baring precisely at twelve, and after the clerk had gone through the common forms of reading the minutes and bye-laws,

The chairman stated the conference he had held with Mr Pitt respecting the equalization of duties, and that the minister had given a decided opinion that nothing at present could be done to alleviate the rate of duty payable on sugar imported from the East Indies.

Extract of a letter from Jersey, April 1.

"Every body in this place waits with the utmost impatience for the decision of the royal commissioners who were sent to Jersey in August last, for the purpose of examining whether a trial by jury would be practicable in this island; and to make such other laws and regulations as might be conducive to its welfare and prosperity. The states have deputed John Dumaresq, esq. advocate of the royal court, and representative of the parish of St Peter's, to confer with the commissioners, and to hasten the decision as early as possible; and have also appointed a committee to correspond and to give directions to the said John Dumaresq, consisting of Mefsrs Lem-priere and le Couteur, jurats;

The Portuguese begin to consider Dr Willis a greater man than the pope; and it is with the utmost difficulty that the priests are able to prevent the people from worshipping him.

They have hit upon one expedient, however, but it obtains credit very slowly, to regain their ascendancy. It is this—they have declared that at the intercession of the holy mother church, the pope inspired Dr Willis, and gave him an *anointed cross*, which as soon as the queen touched she was cured.

April 26. A duel was fought yesterday se'enight near Paris, between two members of the National Assembly, Mefsrs Gouvion and Chodieu, in consequence of some harsh language which passed between them on the subject of the soldiers of Chateauvieux, in the Assembly on Monday the 9th; they were accompanied by seconds, and fought with pistols.—M. Gouvion had the first fire, which proved fatal to his antagonist.

M. Gouvion has since not only resigned his seat in the national assembly, but has also quitted Paris, where the magistracy have decreed honours and triumphs to the murderers of his brother.

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Trans. 2. 7. 1. 1. END OF VOLUME EIGHTH.



ERRATA.

- Page 1. line 2. for *Anguville* read *Angerville*.
 — ib. line 5. for *erected*, read *created*.
 — 49. line 4. for *nteresting* read *interesting*.
 — ib. line 11. for *same he* read *same time he*.
 — 82. line 10. from the bottom and several other places, for *Argill* read *Argyll*.
 — 101. note line 1. for *general* read *great*.
 — 106. line 15. for *scundrel* read *yunker*.
 — 123. note line 6. for *band* read *hazard*.
 — 135. line 22. for *virtuous*, in read *virtuous*. In.
 — 137. note line 1. for *form* read *forms*.
 — 190 line 18. for *Dioscreea* read *Dioscoria*.
 — 193. note last line for *deprecat* read *depreciate*.
 — 55. the Stair in the Section turns to the Left instead of the Right, which it ought to have done.

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View near the Water of Leith, —	294
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